

Isabelle Dethan • Julien Maffre

ALEXANDER'S TOMB

1. The Manuscript of Cyrene



DEL COURT



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1. The Manuscript of Cyrene



Story

Isabelle Dethan

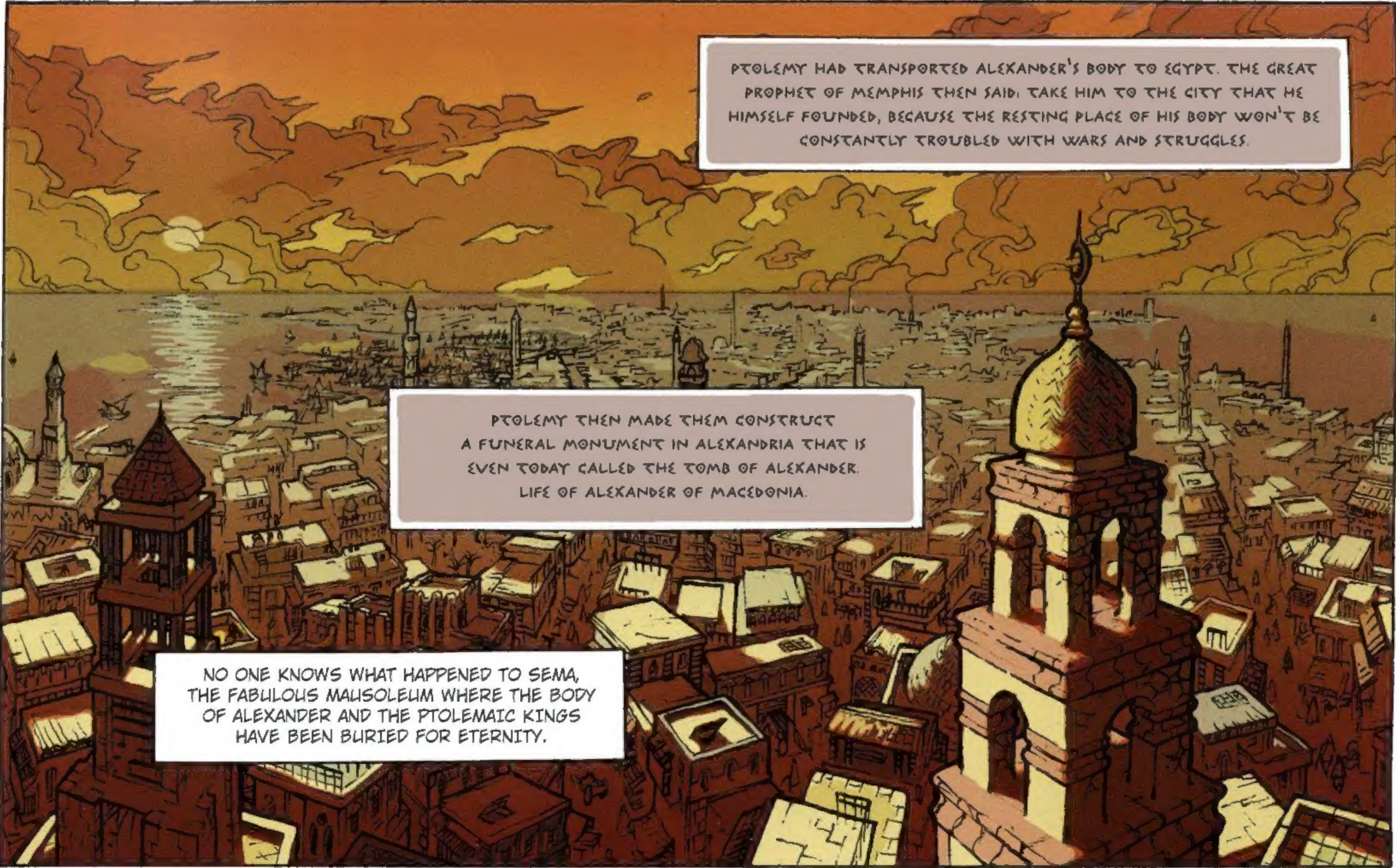
Art & Colours

Julien Maffre

Translation & Retext

Sosich





PTOLEMY HAD TRANSPORTED ALEXANDER'S BODY TO EGYPT. THE GREAT PROPHET OF MEMPHIS THEN SAID: TAKE HIM TO THE CITY THAT HE HIMSELF FOUNDED, BECAUSE THE RESTING PLACE OF HIS BODY WON'T BE CONSTANTLY TROUBLED WITH WARS AND STRUGGLES.

PTOLEMY THEN MADE THEM CONSTRUCT A FUNERAL MONUMENT IN ALEXANDRIA THAT IS EVEN TODAY CALLED THE TOMB OF ALEXANDER. LIFE OF ALEXANDER OF MACEDONIA.

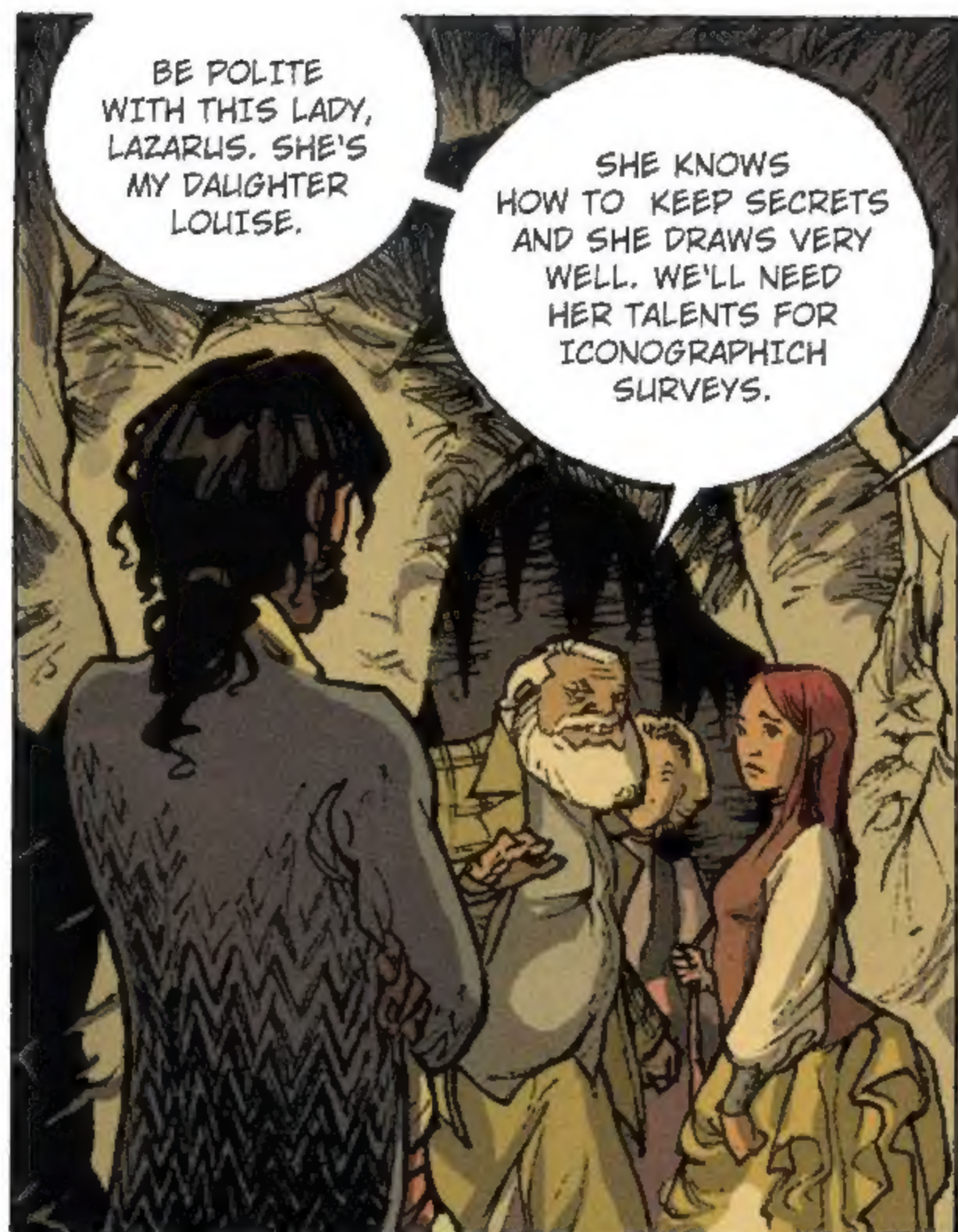
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO SEMA, THE FABULOUS MAUSOLEUM WHERE THE BODY OF ALEXANDER AND THE PTOLEMAIC KINGS HAVE BEEN BURIED FOR ETERNITY.



ALEXANDRIA, JUNE 1858.







BE POLITE WITH THIS LADY, LAZARUS. SHE'S MY DAUGHTER LOUISE.

SHE KNOWS HOW TO KEEP SECRETS AND SHE DRAWS VERY WELL. WE'LL NEED HER TALENTS FOR ICONOGRAPHIC SURVEYS.



...YOU WOULD KNOW ALL THIS IF YOU HAD COME TO OUR PREPARATORY MEETING, BUT APPARENTLY YOU PREFER TO SURVEY THE CATACOMBS.



TO EACH HIS OWN OCCUPATION, CHARLES. THE TRADE OF CORPSES DISGUISED AS MUMMIES IS YOURS, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN...

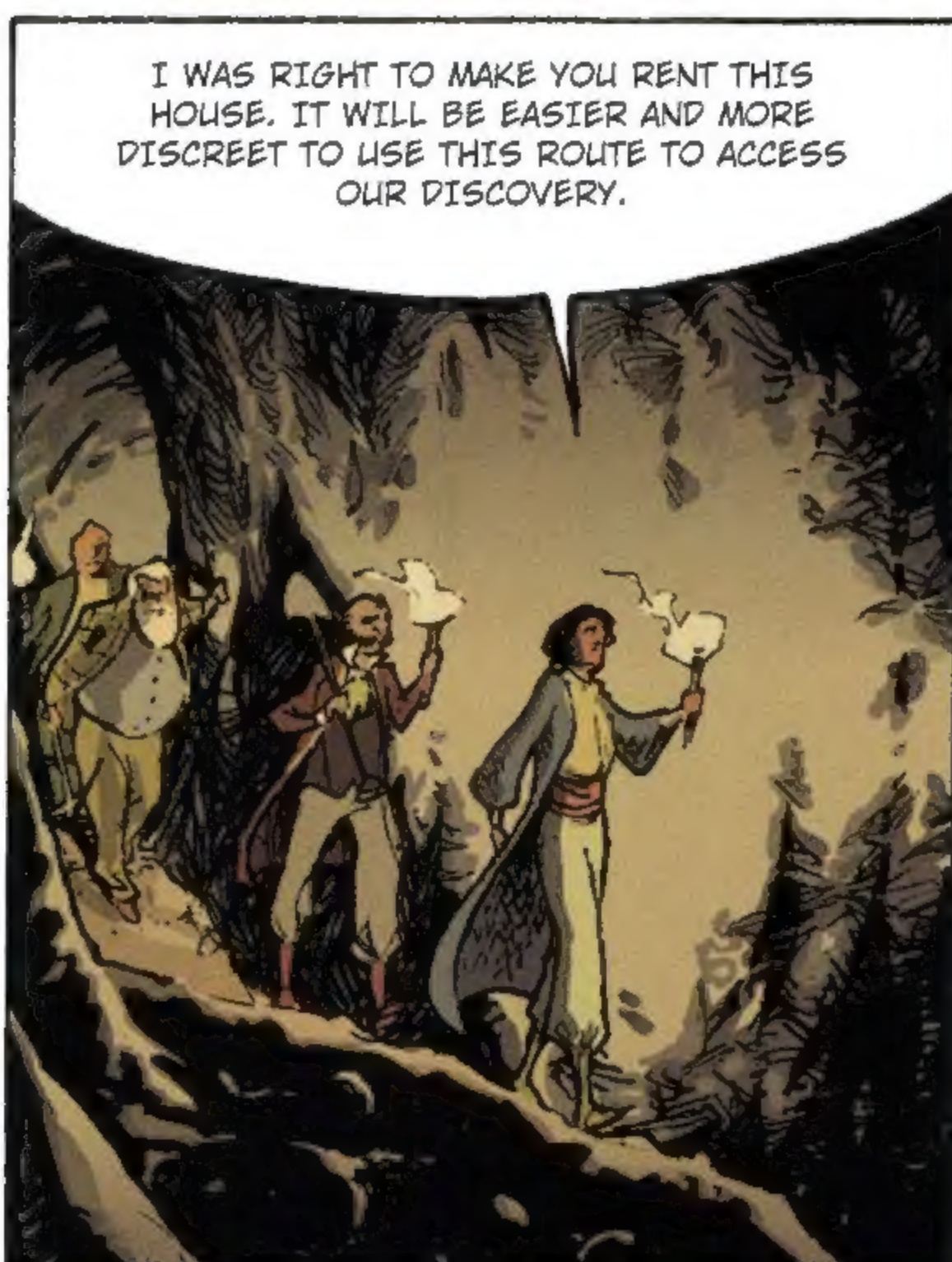


FINE FINE FINE. AND IF WE GET TO WORK? TIME IS MOVING!



ALL RIGHT. WE'LL QUICKLY REACH THE ALCOVE, WHICH IS INTERESTING TO US, IF WE FOLLOW THIS PASSAGE.

ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THE CAVE YOU'VE JUST LEFT RESTS AGAINST THE NORTHWEST WALL OF THE FUNERAL CHAPEL.



I WAS RIGHT TO MAKE YOU RENT THIS HOUSE. IT WILL BE EASIER AND MORE DISCREET TO USE THIS ROUTE TO ACCESS OUR DISCOVERY.



WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE OVERALL PLAN OF THE FUNERAL COMPLEX BY EXPLORING THE CATACOMBS?



I'D LOVE THAT.

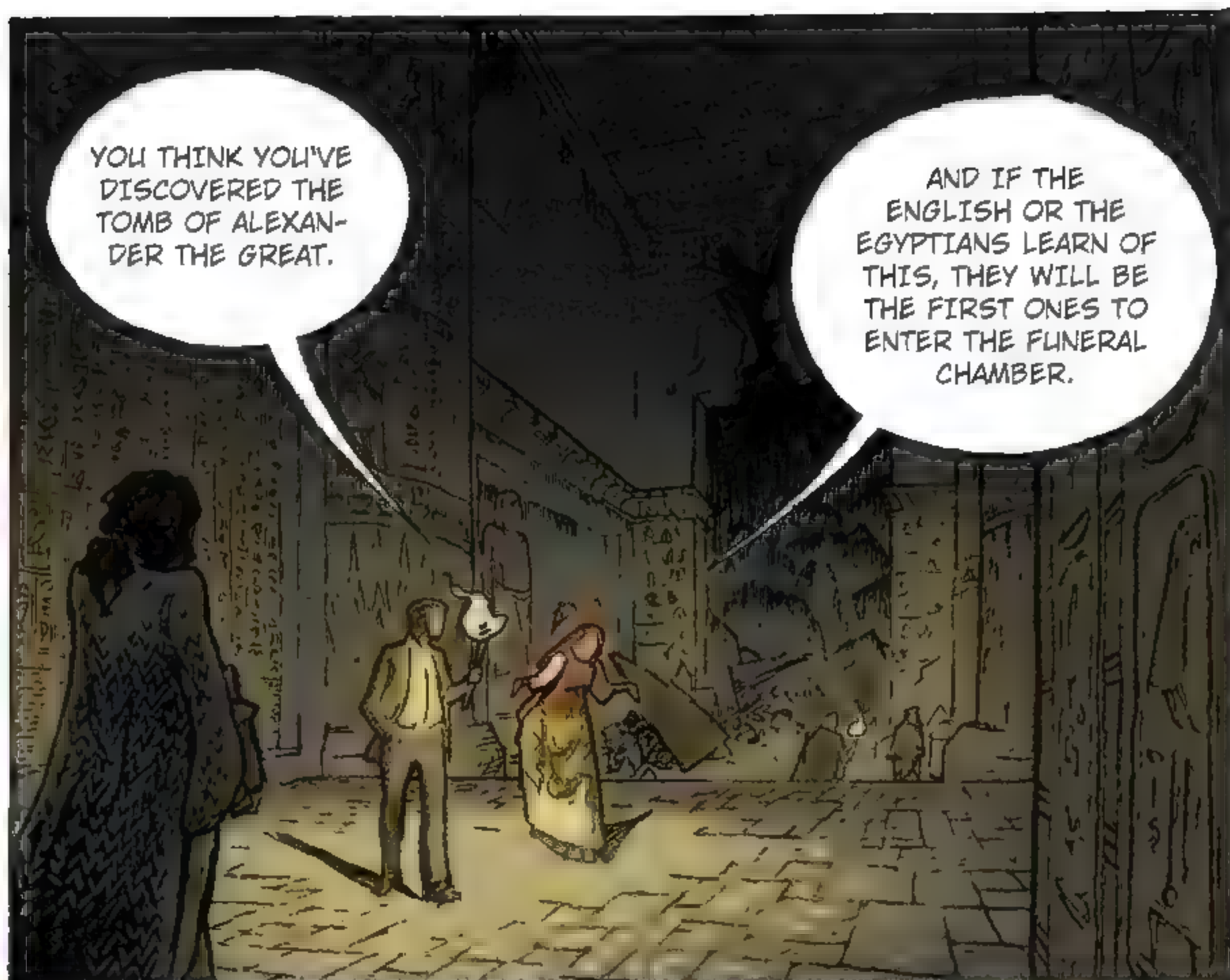
I KNOW THE CITY OF THE DEAD, WHICH STRETCHES UNDER ALEXANDRIA, BETTER THAN ANYONE...

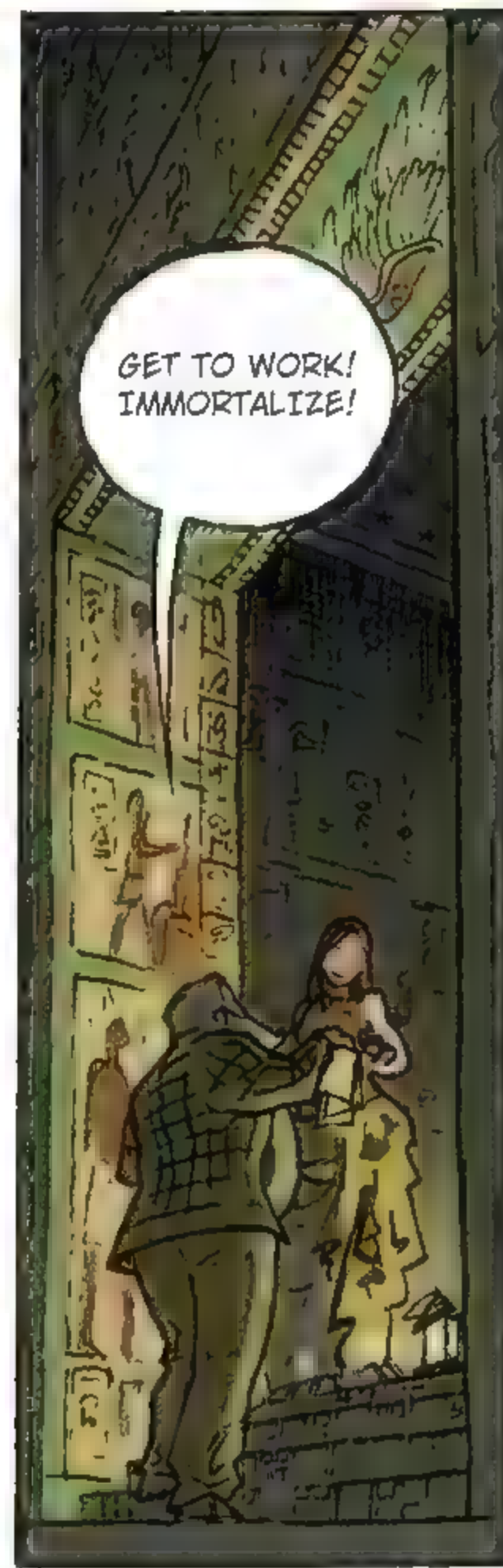


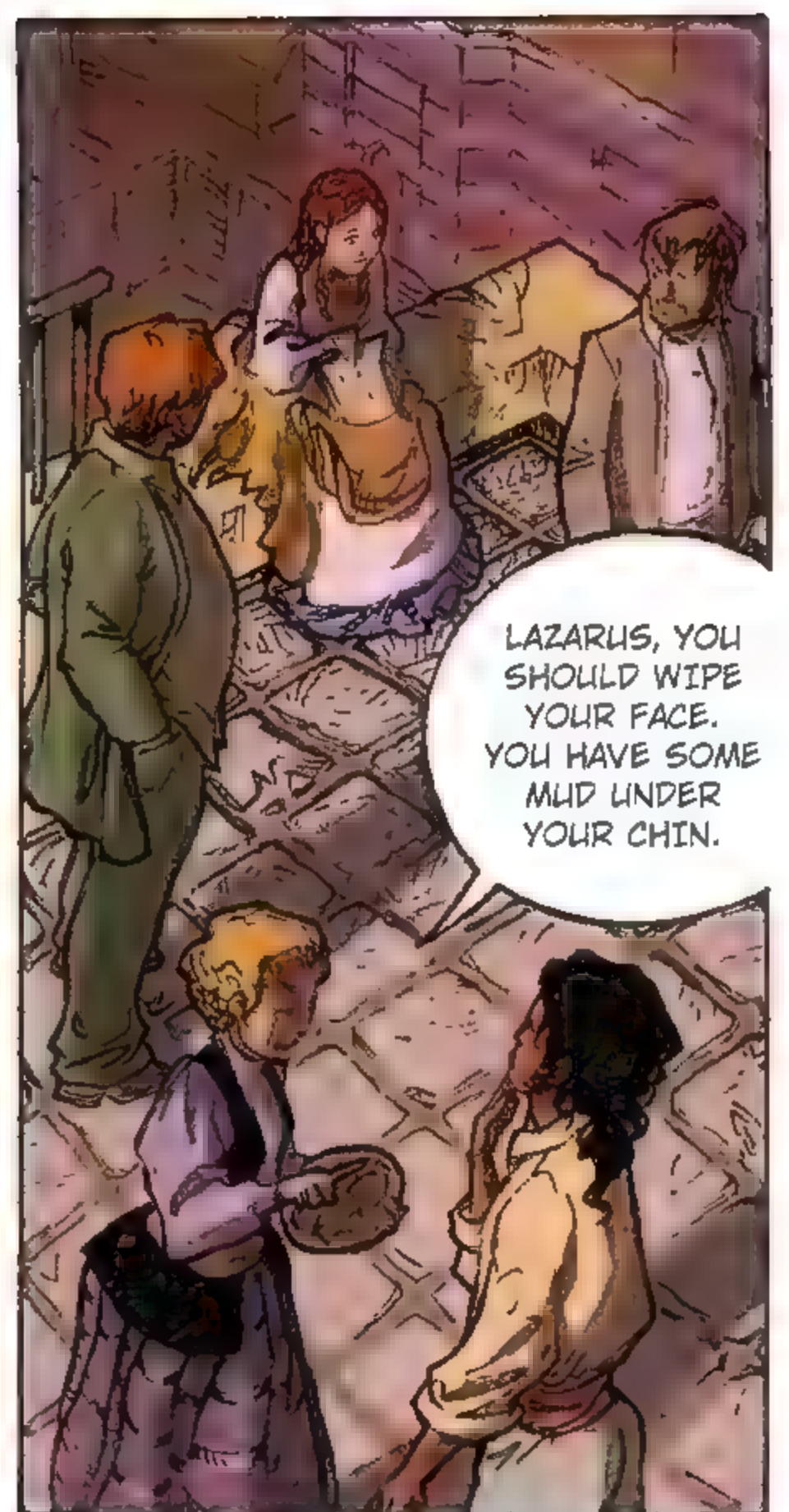














IF I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY, EVERYONE GOES HOME...



WHAT ABOUT YOU, FERDINAND? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIE DOWN AFTER THIS SLEEPLESS NIGHT?

YOU DON'T SHOW YOUR 50 YEARS!



TRUST ME, CHARLES, ONE LITTLE TRIP AND I'LL JOIN MY BED.

A TRIP?



ALL THIS TIME, LAZARUS TALKED ABOUT THE NEED TO FIND THE PLANS.

...OF THE TOMB, I HEAR.



I MIGHT BE ON A TRACK. I'M GOING TO CHECK IT BEFORE I LIE DOWN.

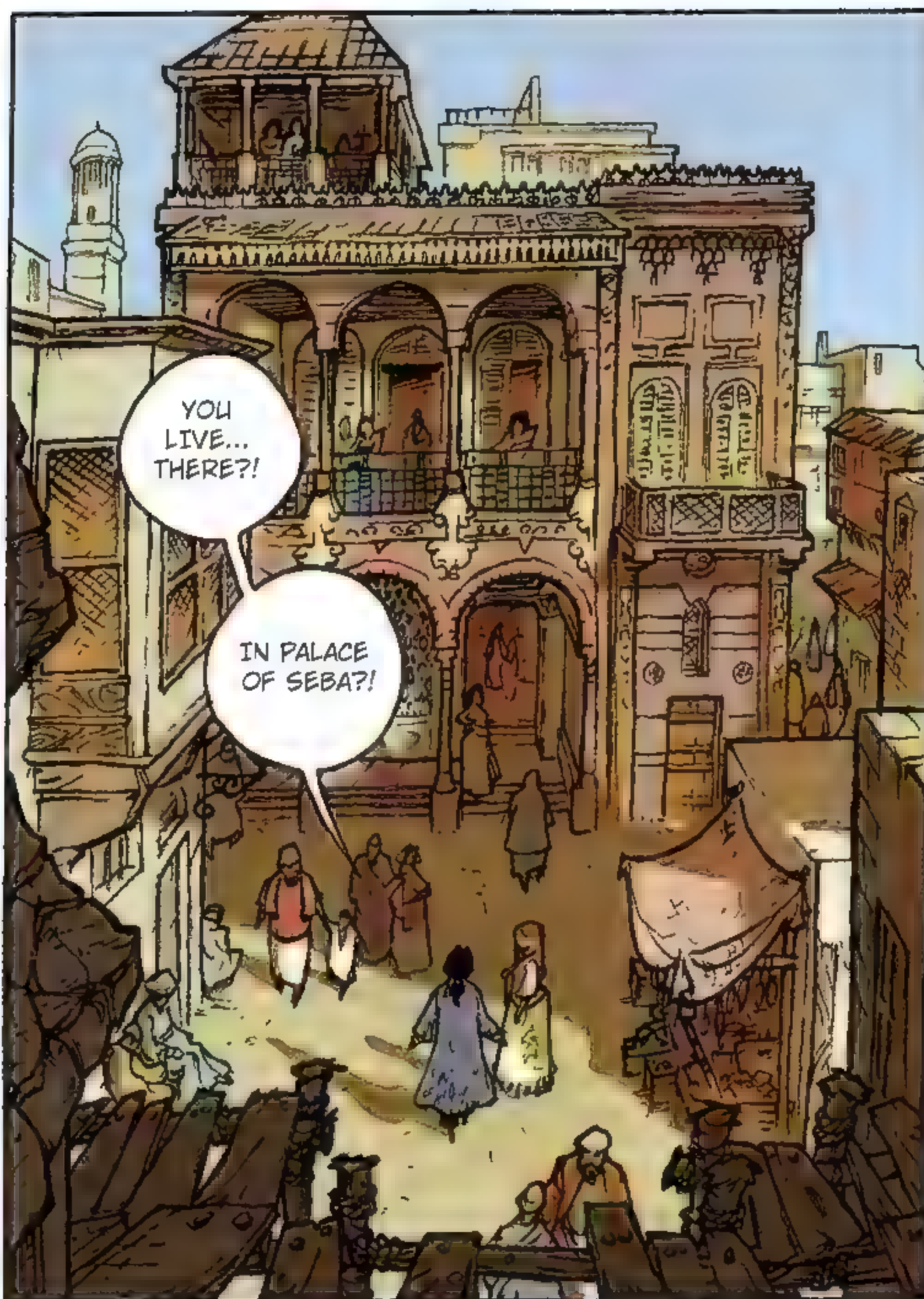


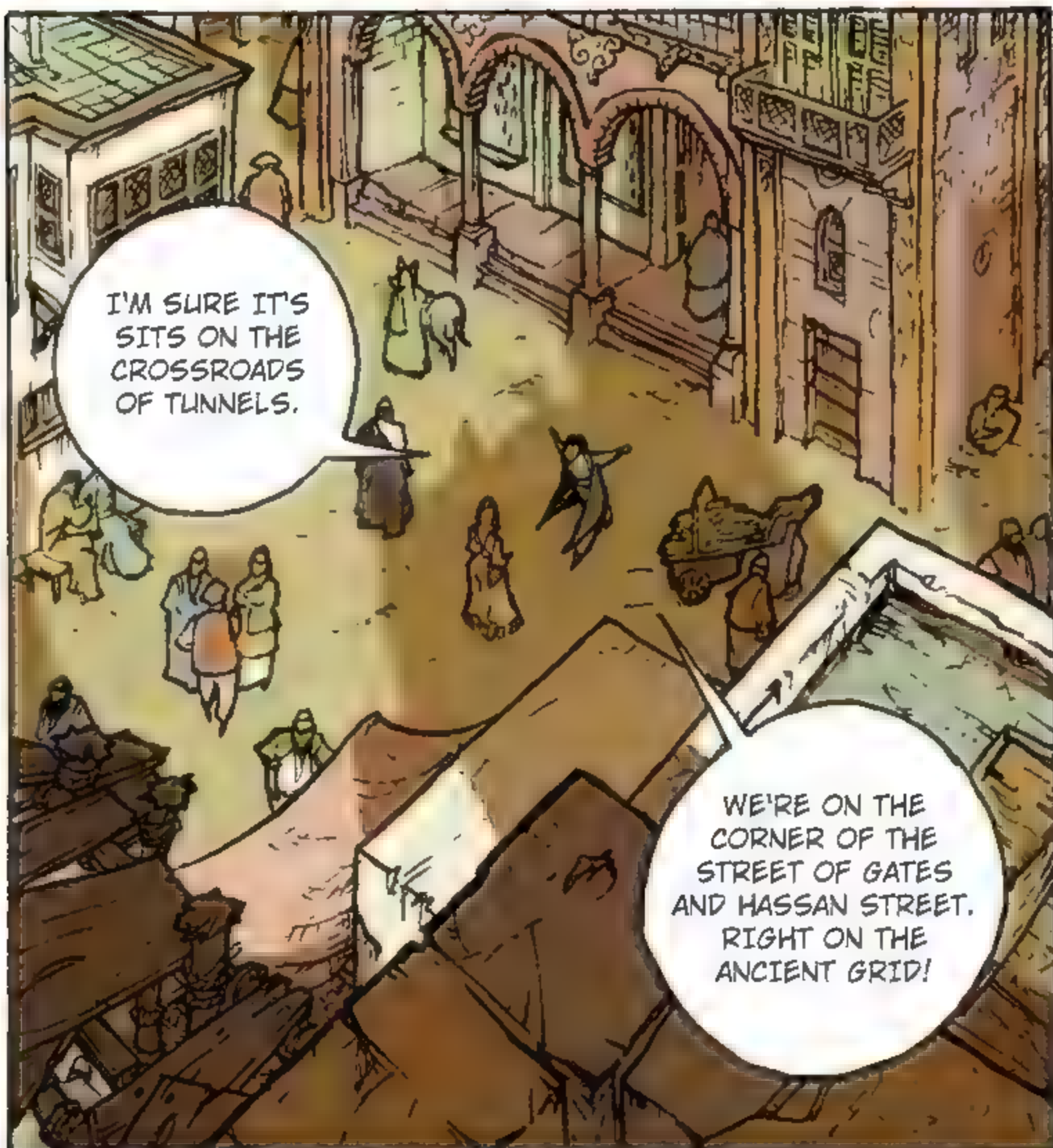
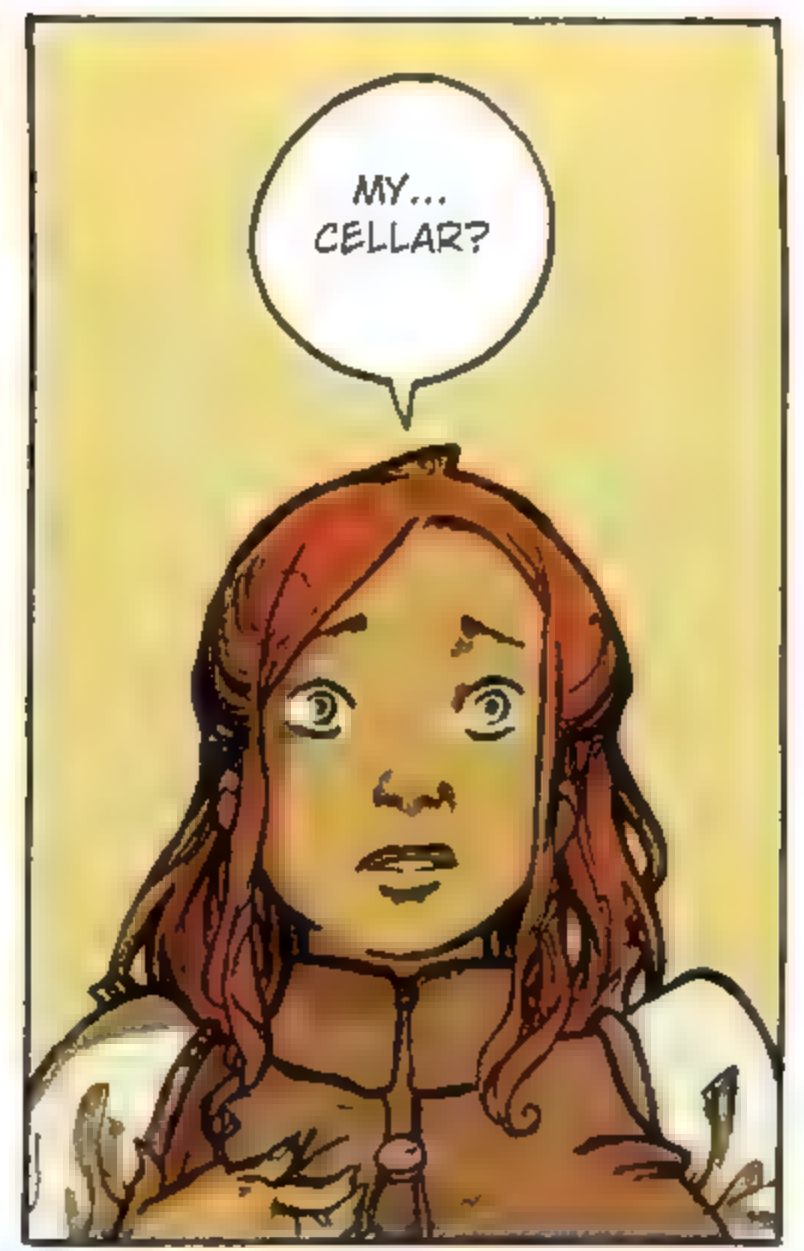
YOU LOOK ANXIOUS. IF THIS TRACK IS DANGEROUS AND YOU NEED AN ESCORT...

THANK YOU, BUT ANTONIN HAS ALREADY OFFERED TO COME WITH ME.

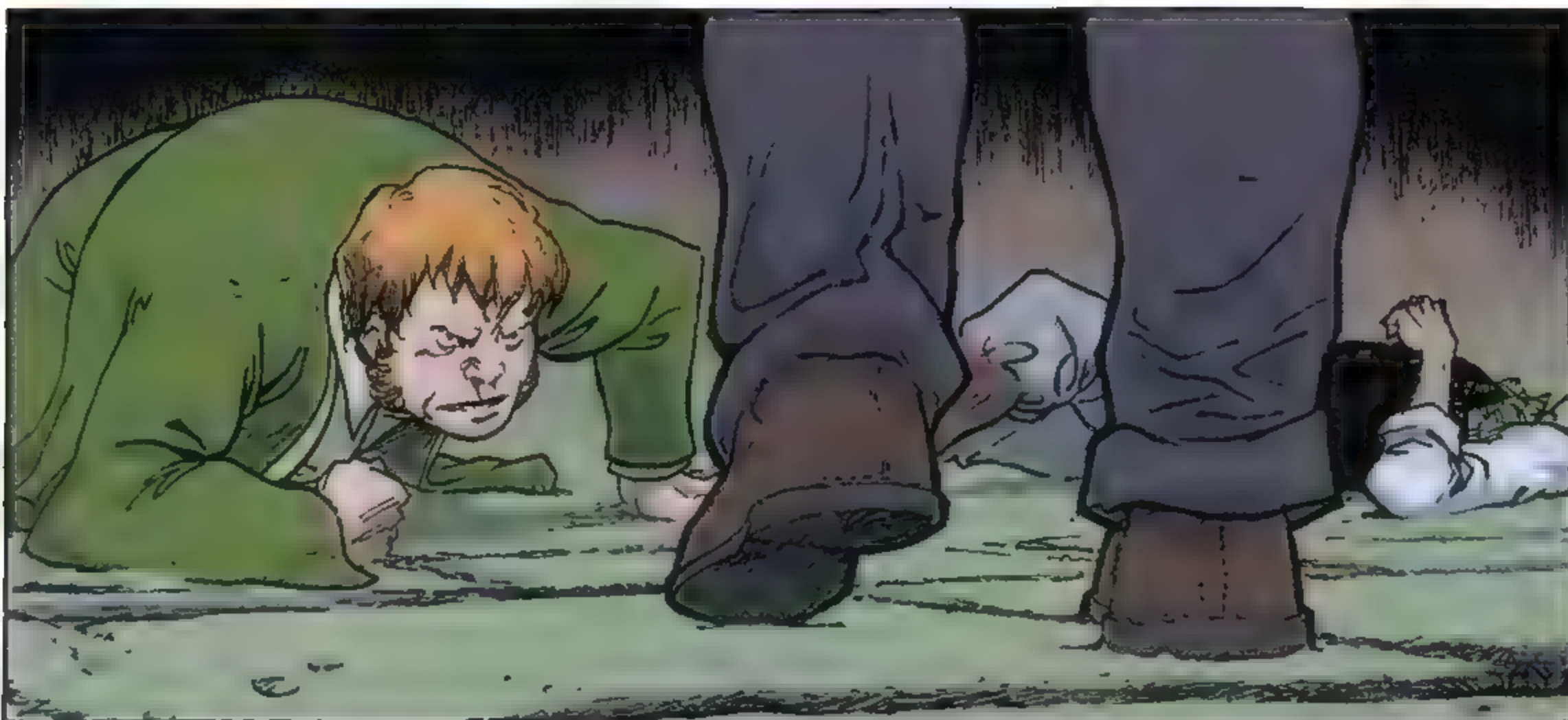


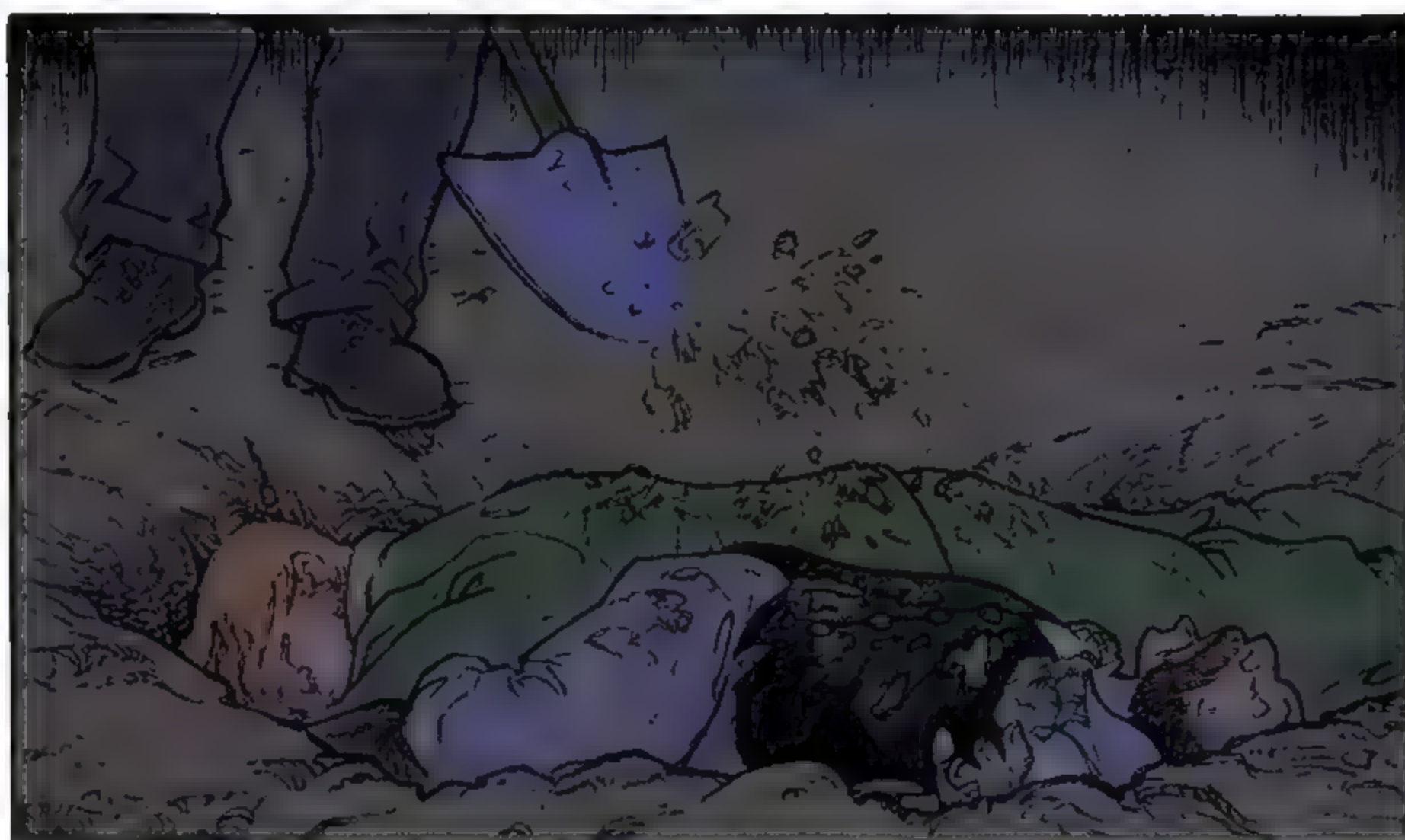
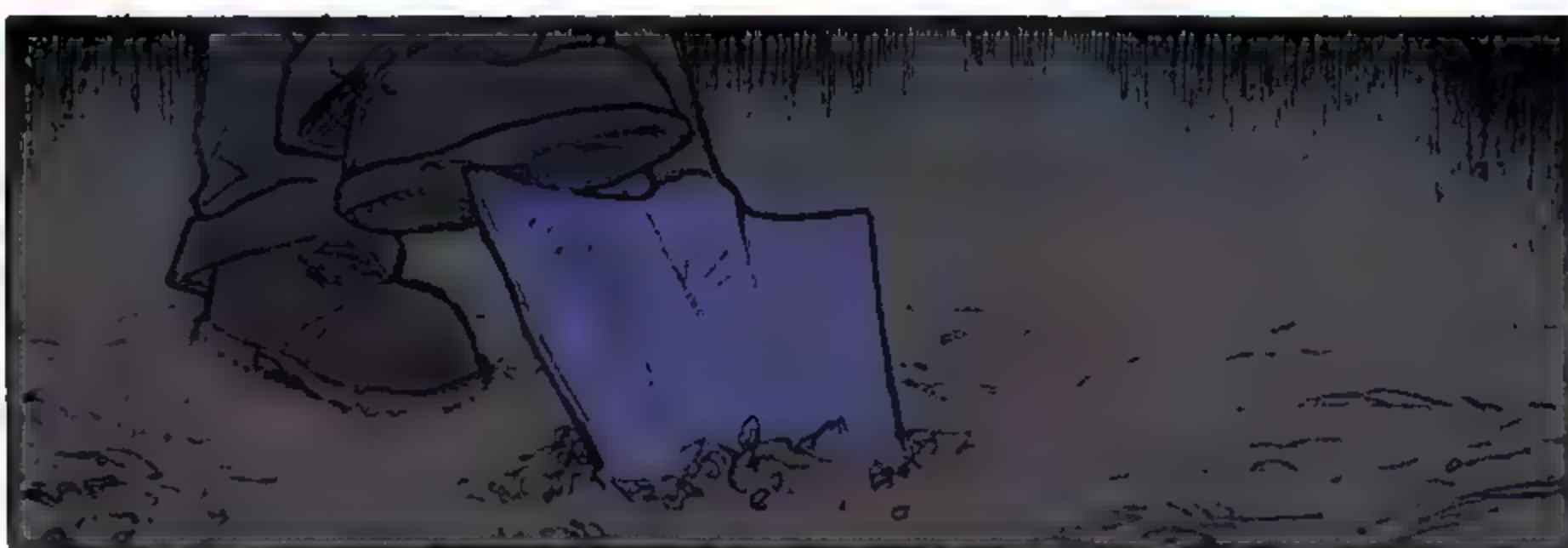
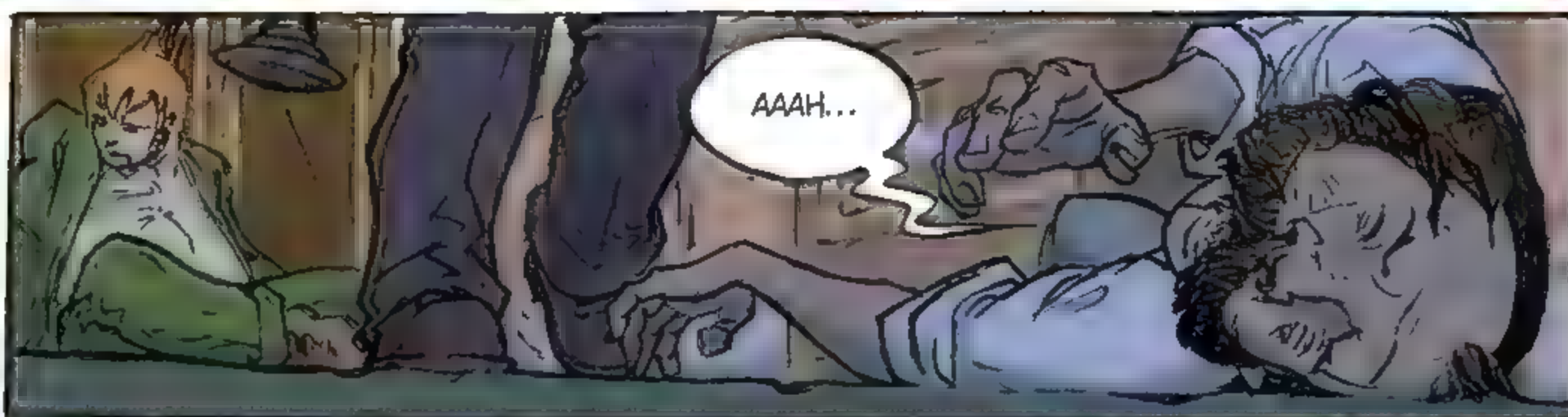
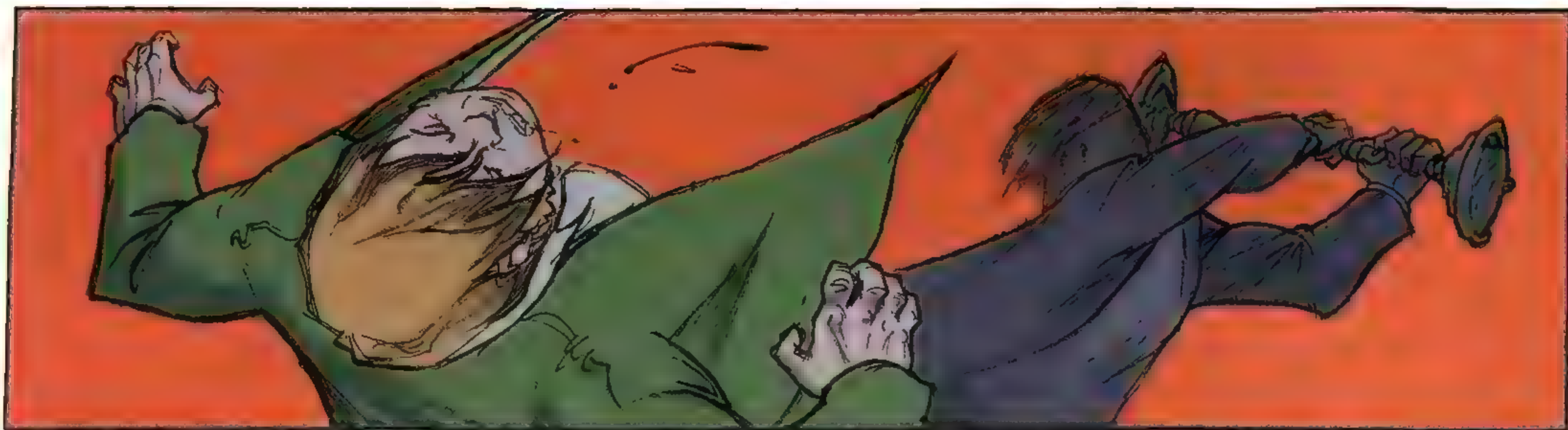
SEE YOU TOMORROW IN THE EVENING. I HOPE I'LL HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR RESEARCH.

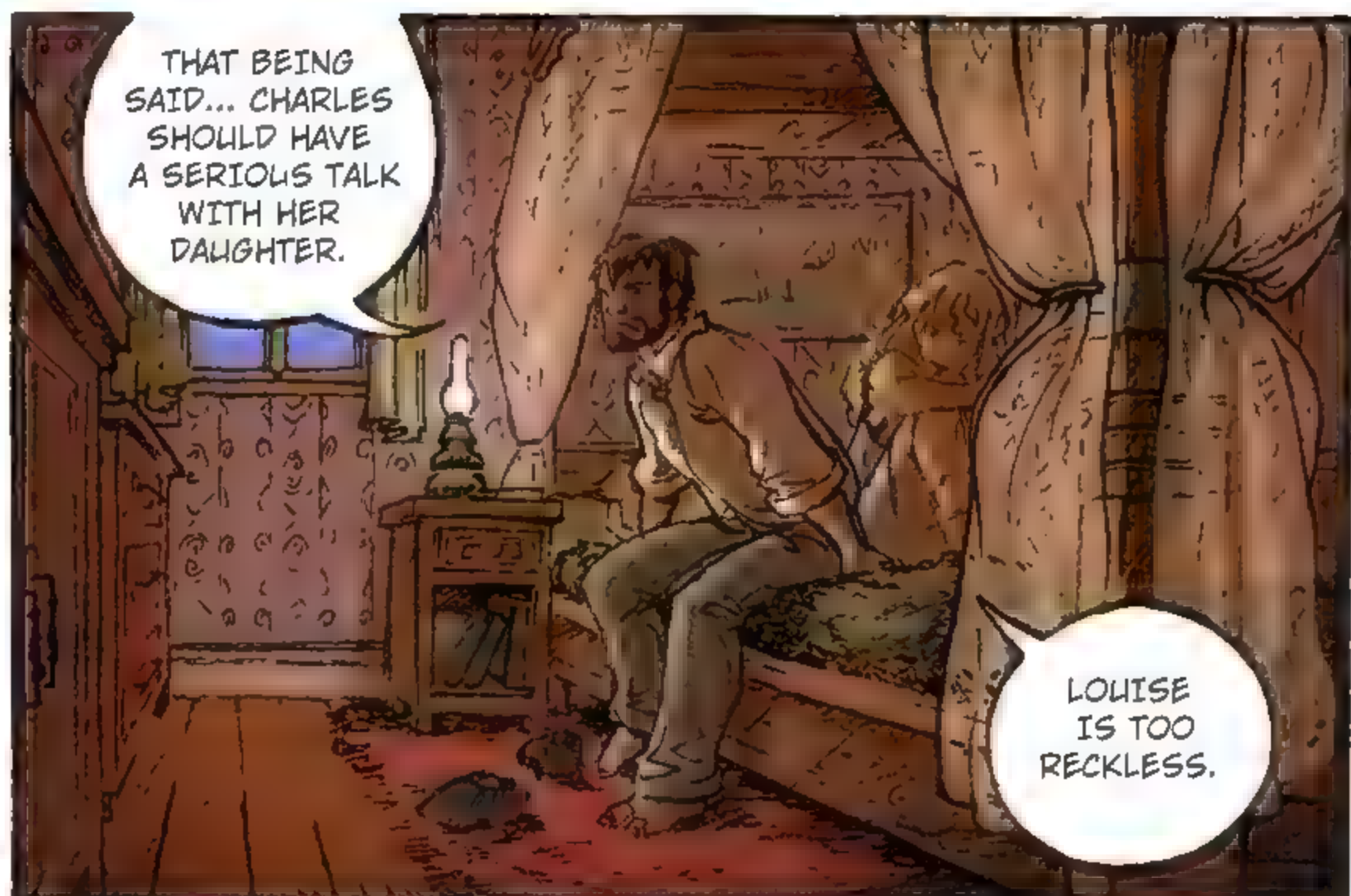
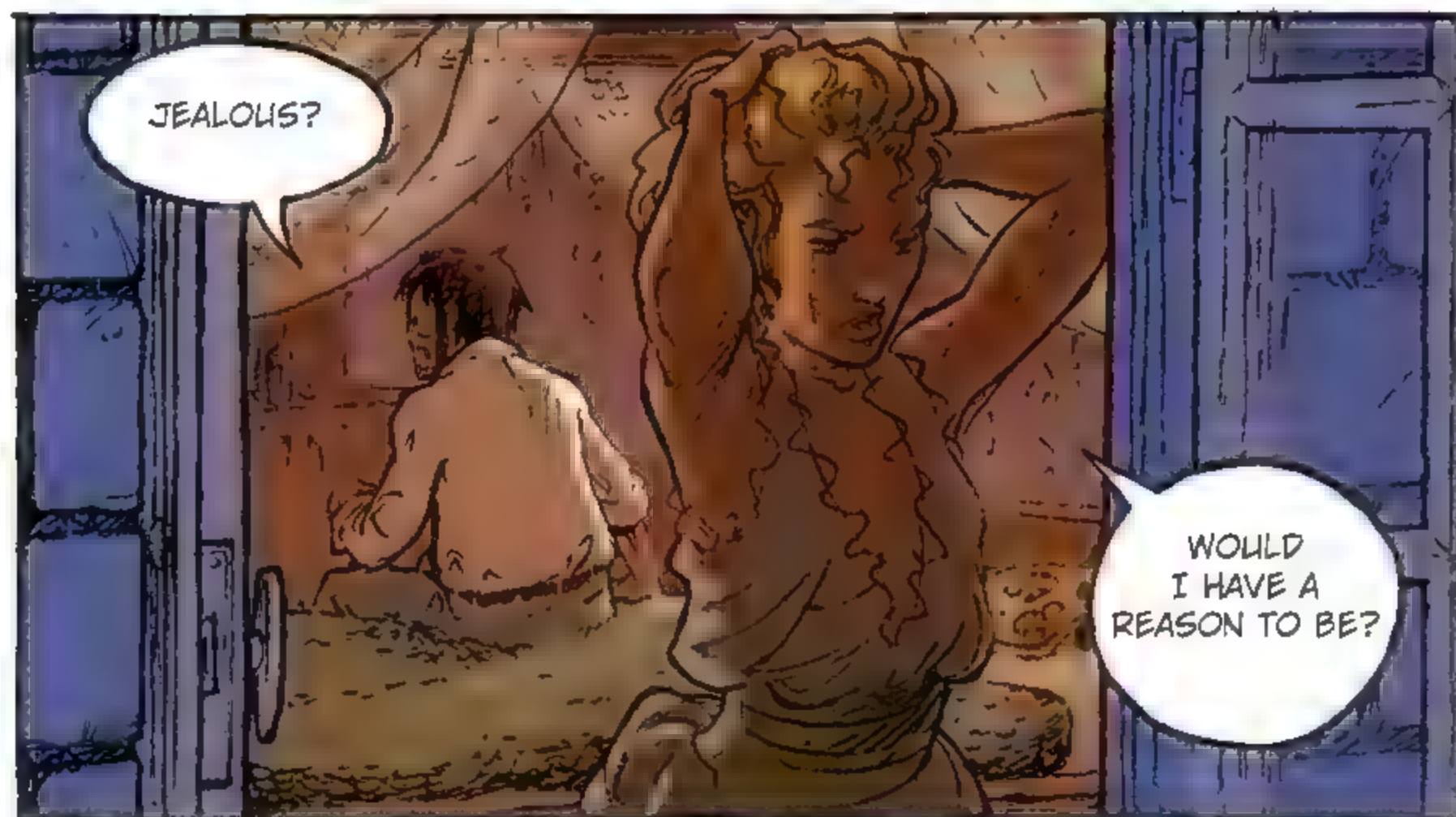
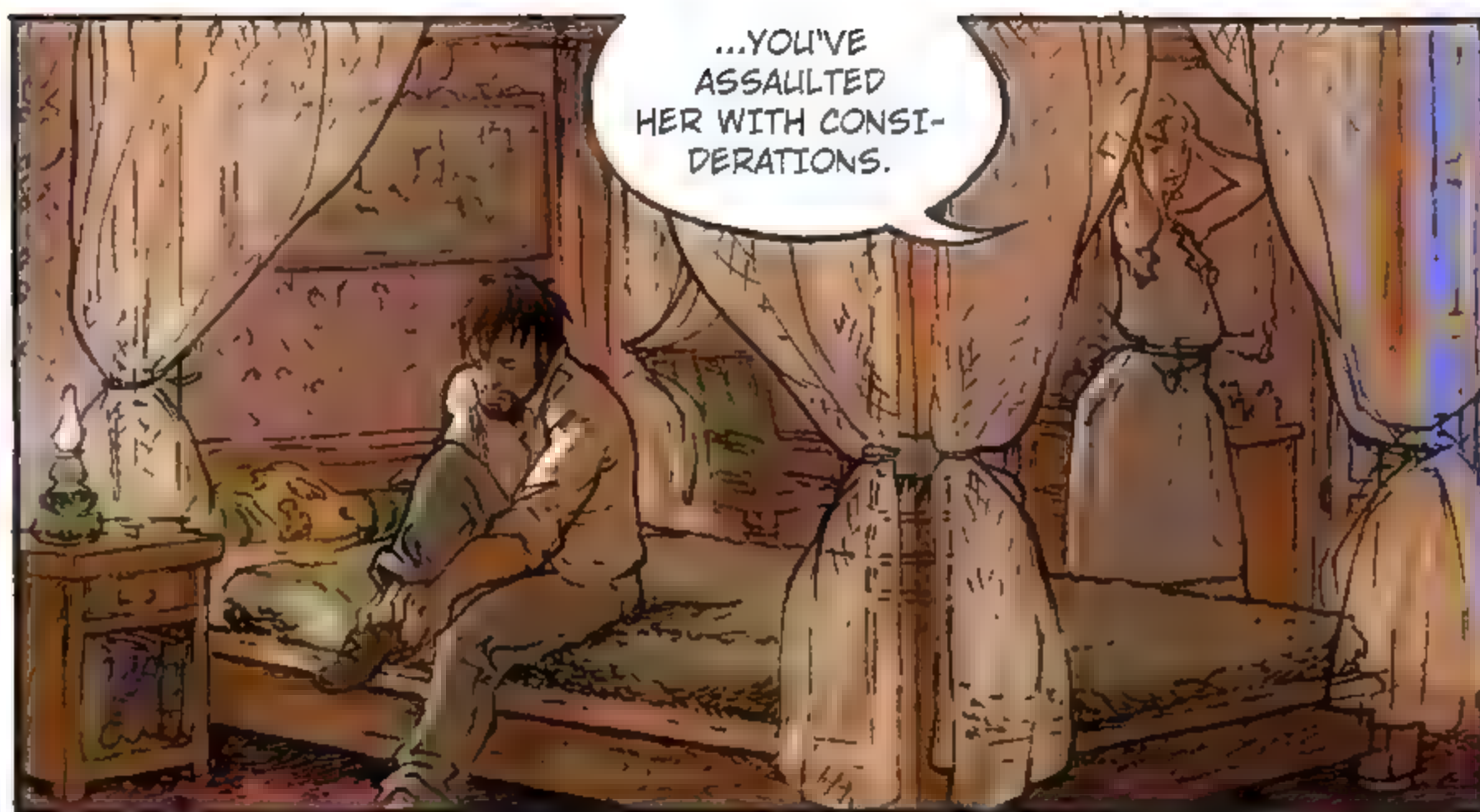


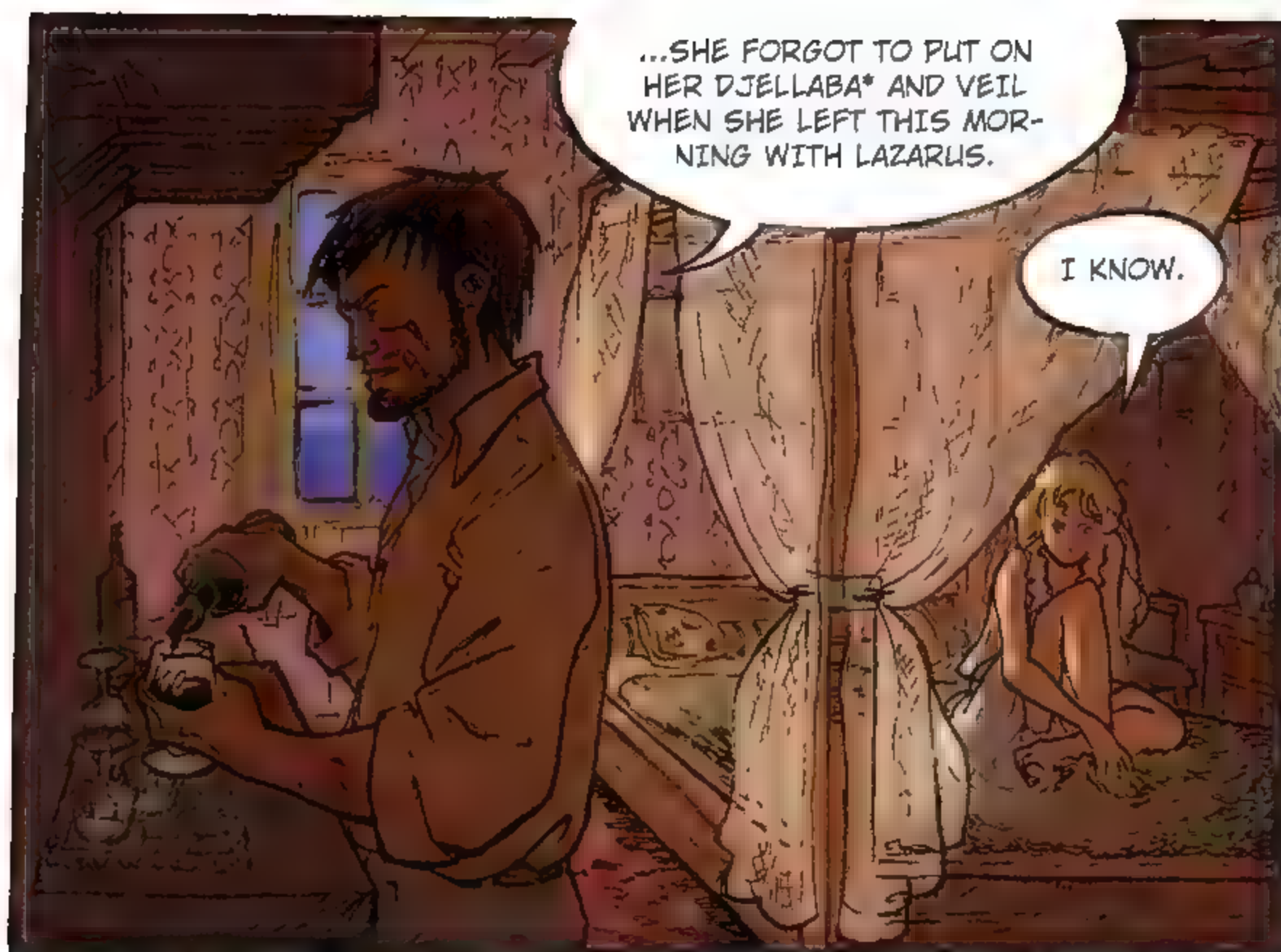






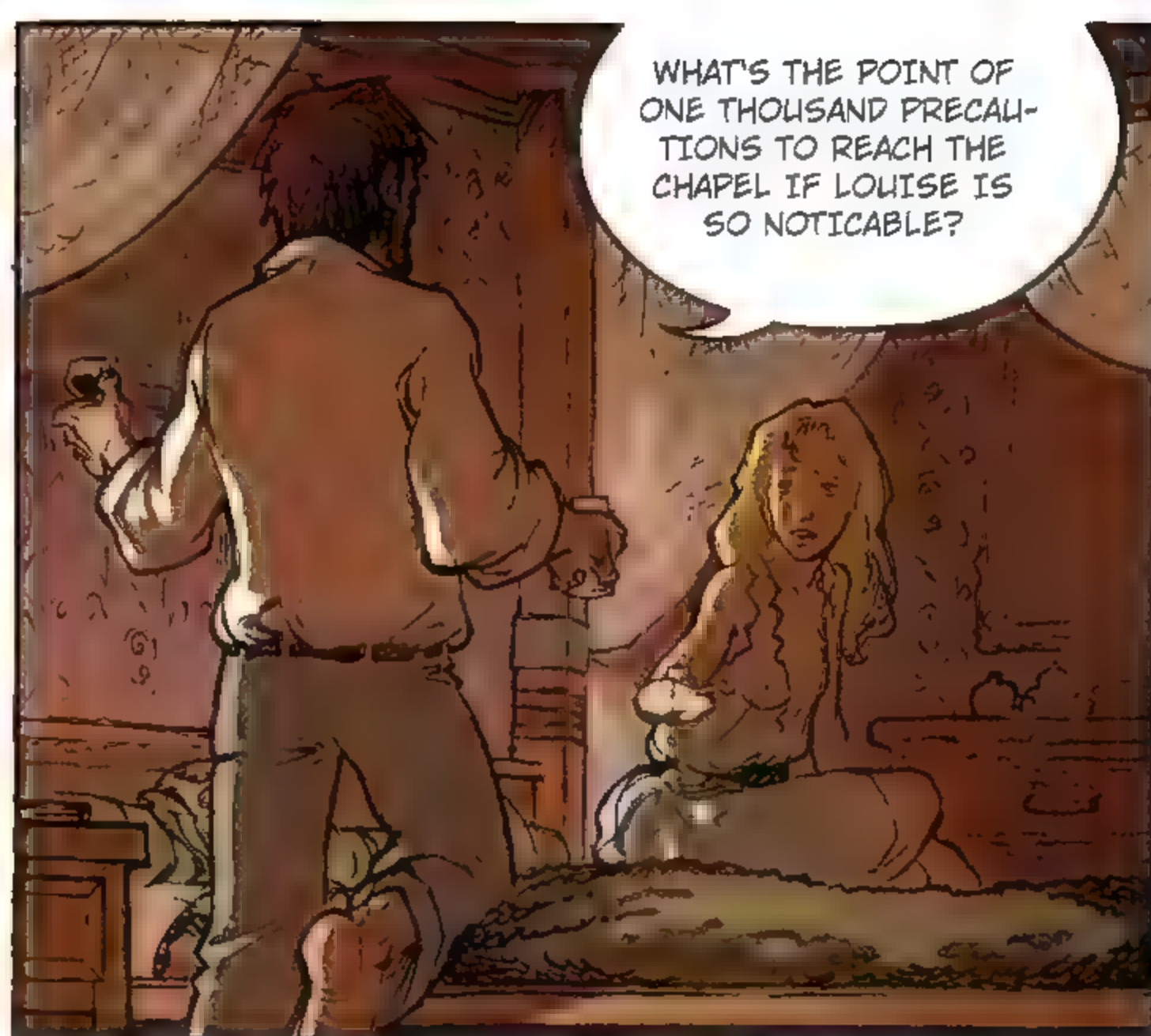






...SHE FORGOT TO PUT ON
HER DJELLABA* AND VEIL
WHEN SHE LEFT THIS MOR-
NING WITH LAZARUS.

I KNOW.



WHAT'S THE POINT OF
ONE THOUSAND PRECAU-
TIONS TO REACH THE
CHAPEL IF LOUISE IS
SO NOTICABLE?



LAZARUS, ON THE OTHER HAND,
NATURALLY BLENDS INTO THE
CROWD. BUT A SMALL WHITE
GIRL LIKE LOUISE, IS A
RARE SIGHT!



YOU'RE TOO SUSPICIOUS, DEAR!
GRAVE ROBBERS ARE MEN OF TRADITION:
NONE OF THEM WILL GO THINK THAT
A GIRL CAN PARTICIPATE IN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH.



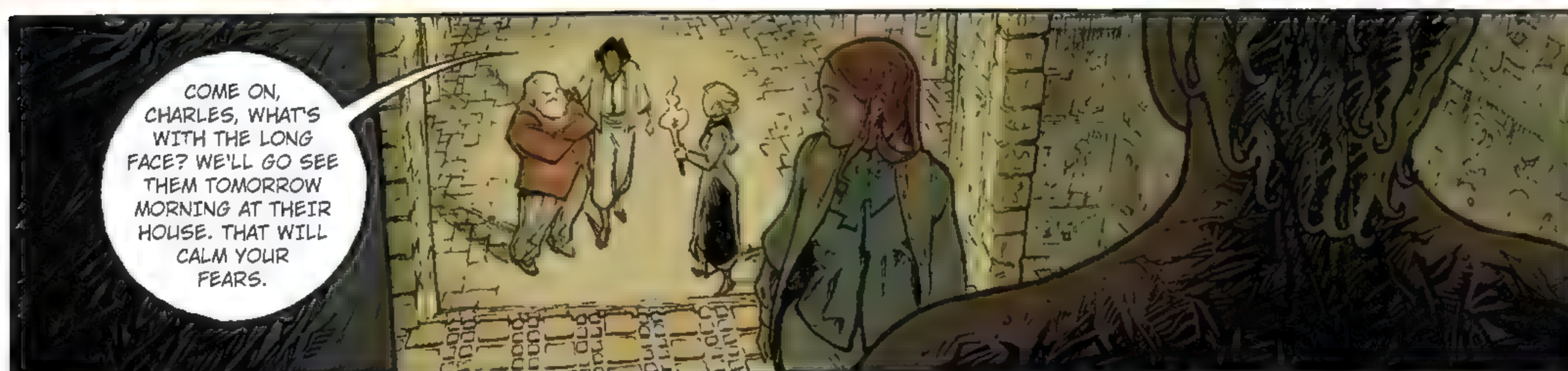
I HOPE
YOU'RE RIGHT,
SWEETHEART...

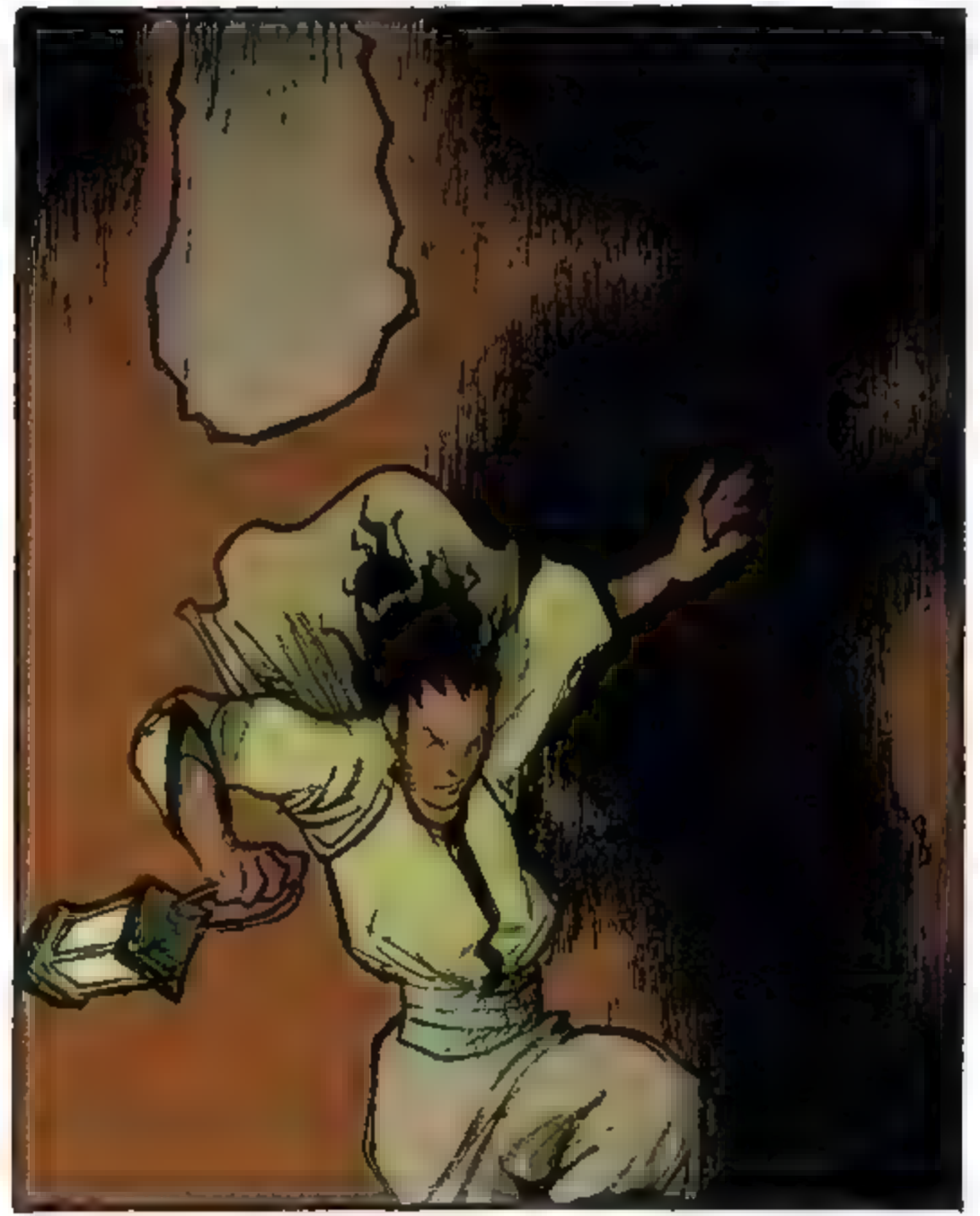


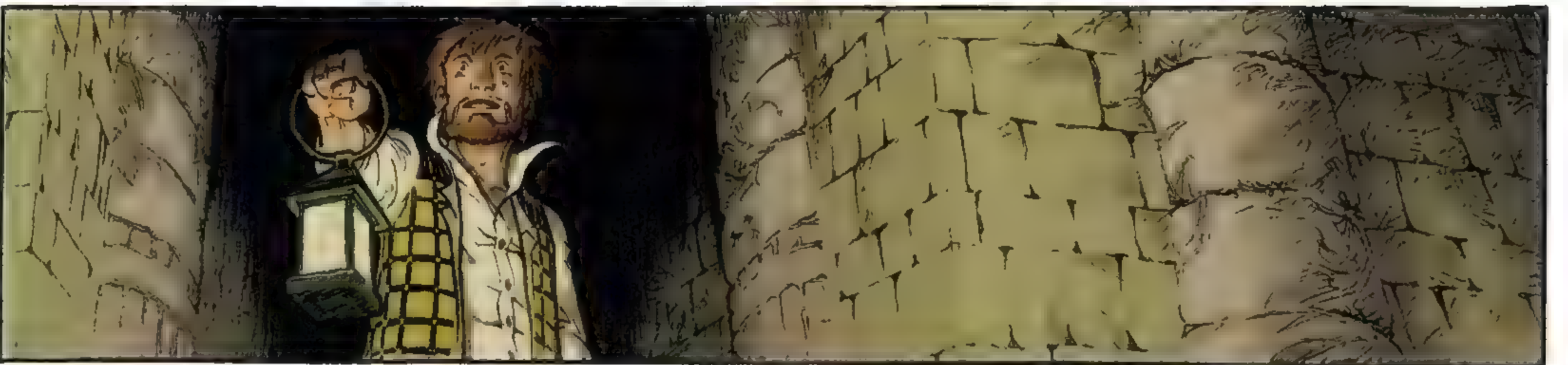
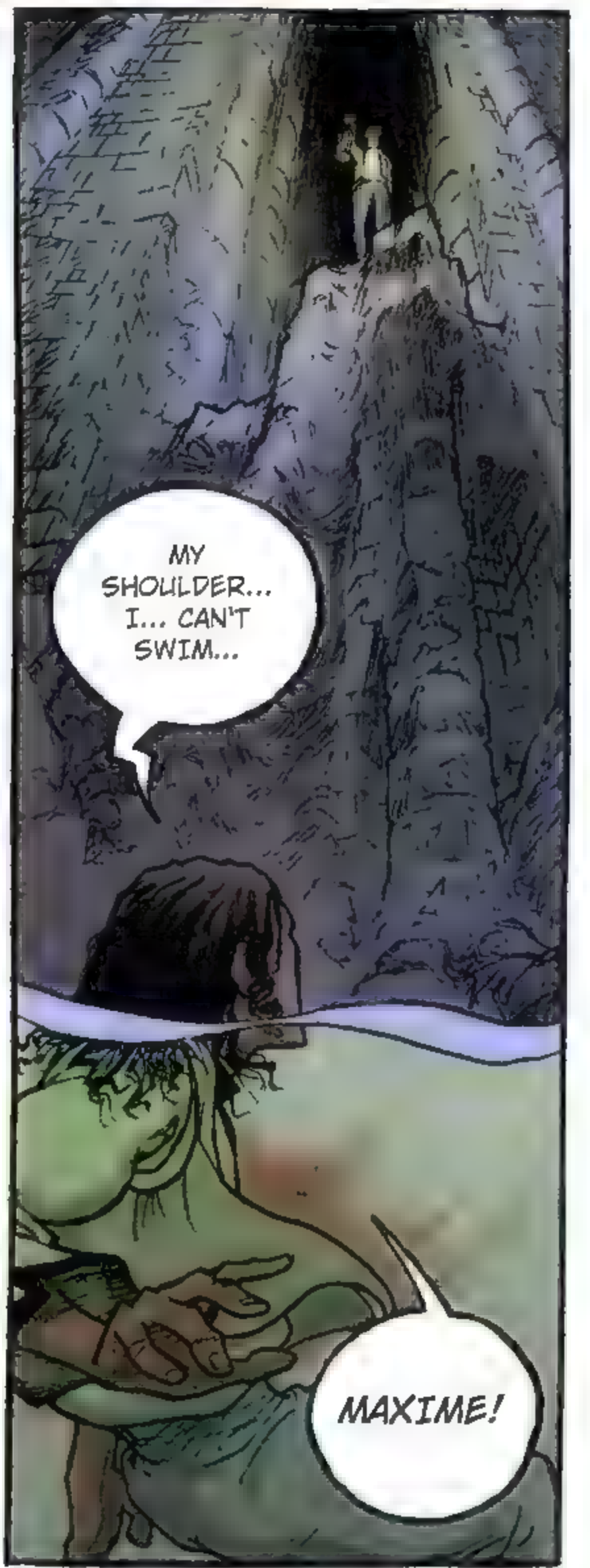
...I HOPE
WE HAVEN'T
BEEN FOLLOWED
ALREADY.

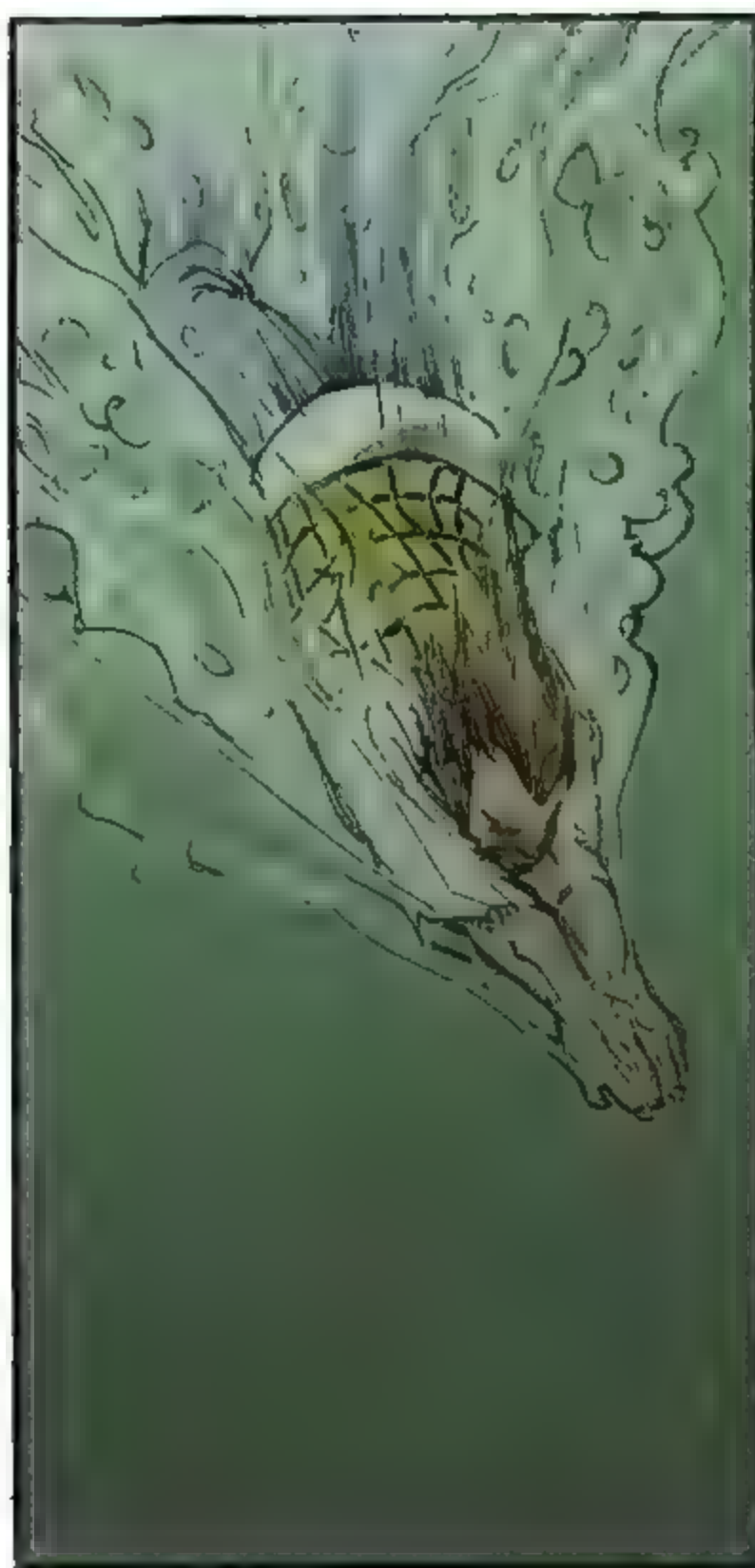


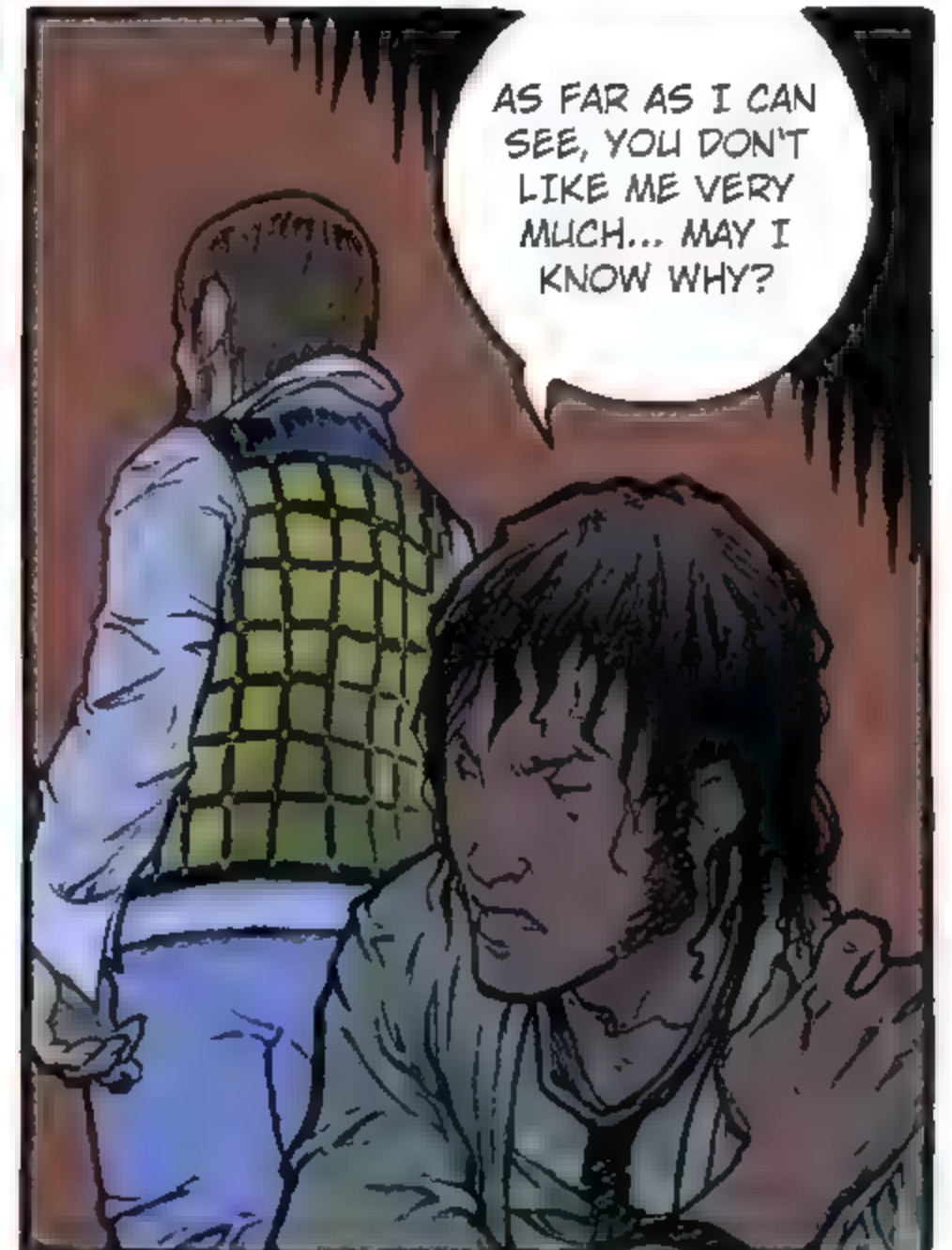
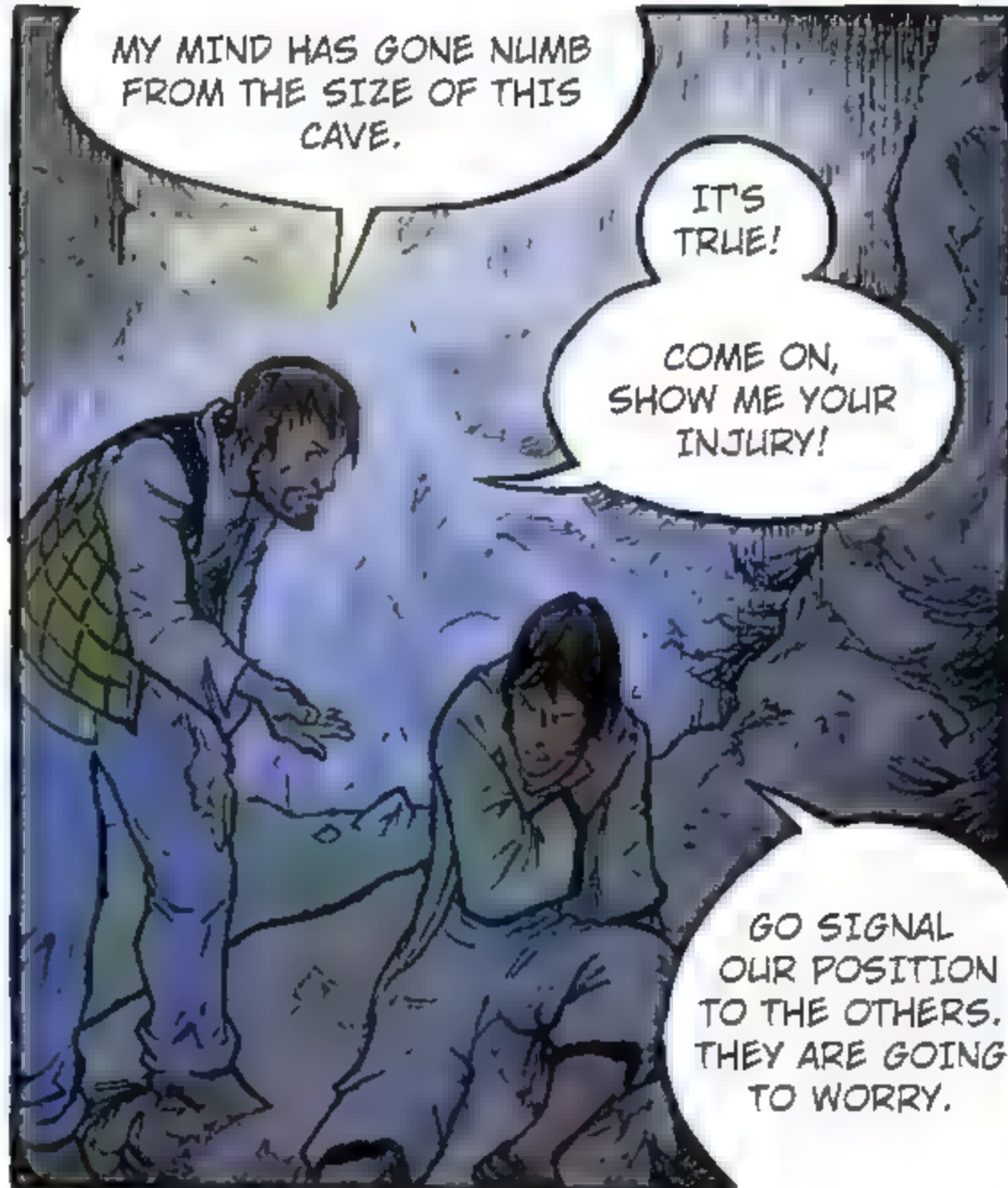
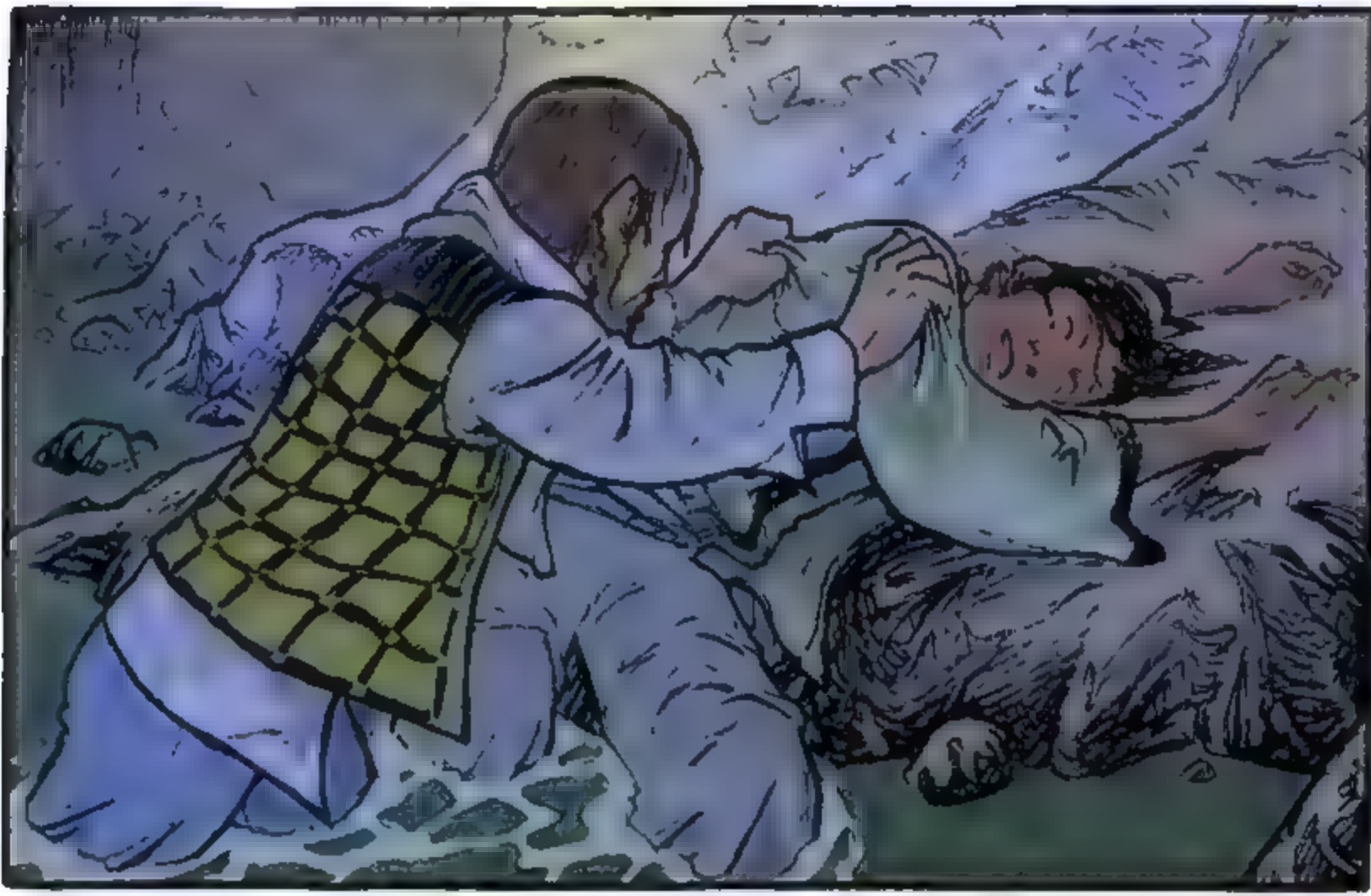
*DJELLABA: TRADITIONAL ROBE.













ALL RIGHT.
WHAT DO WE
DO NOW?



THIS NEW ROOM IS
GIGANTIC. IT WILL TAKE
WEEKS TO FIND THE
PASSAGE THAT WILL LEAD
US TO ALEXANDER...

NOT TO
MENTION OUR
RIVALS. THEIR
CHANCES OF DISCO-
VERING EVERYTHING
INCREASE WITH
EACH DAY.



THEY ARE NO LONGER SIMPLE
RIVALS. ABSENCE OF FERDINAND
AND ANTONIN WORRIES ME.
WE MAY HAVE MUCH MORE
DANGEROUS PEOPLE ON OUR
HEELS THAN USUAL GRAVE
ROBBERS...



I'M PERSUADED
THAT WE ARE
FOLLOWED...



WE HAVE ALREADY
MADE INCREDIBLE
DISCOVERIES. PERHAPS
WE SHOULD DECIDE TO
MAKE THEM PUBLIC.

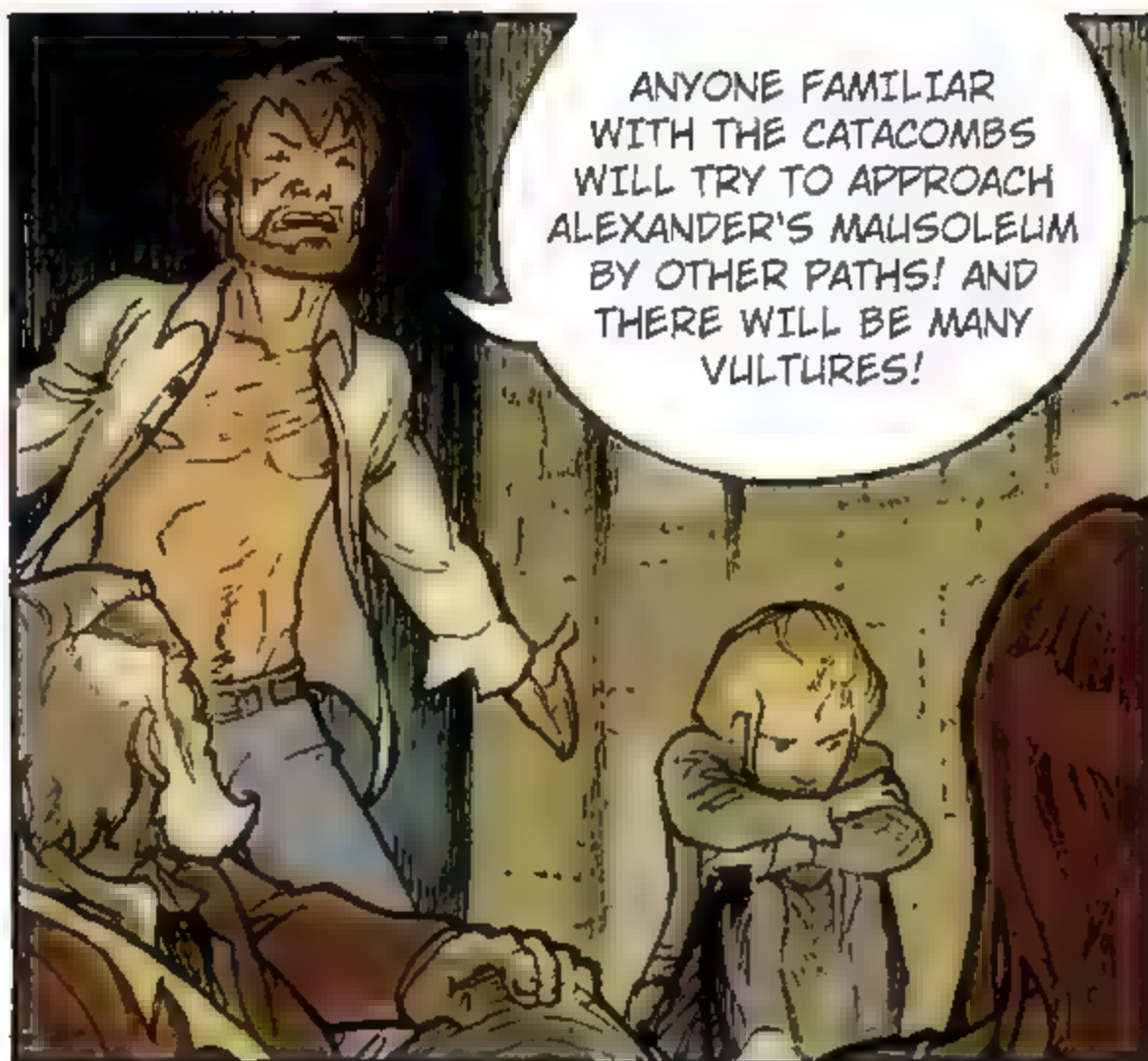
...A NEW DIREC-
TOR OF EGYPTIAN
ANTIQUITIES WAS
APPOINTED BY
SAID PASHA...



...HE'S FRENCH,
ONE AUGUSTE
MARIETTE. THAT
WORKS IN OUR
FAVOUR.



WHAT?! BUT WE HAVEN'T FOUND
ALEXANDER'S TRESURE YET!
IF WE MAKE OUR EXCAVATIONS
PUBLIC, WE CAN'T CLAIM THE
CHAPEL AND THIS CAVE!



ANYONE FAMILIAR
WITH THE CATACOMBS
WILL TRY TO APPROACH
ALEXANDER'S MAUSOLEUM
BY OTHER PATHS! AND
THERE WILL BE MANY
VULTURES!



CALM DOWN. ACCESS TO
THIS PART OF THE BASEMENT
IS DIFFICULT. I KNOW THOSE
WHO CAN GET THERE. I'LL KEEP
YOU INFORMED IF I LEARN
THAT THEY ARE DIGGING
ON THEIR SIDE!



OR YOU'LL GIVE
THEM A HAND!

!

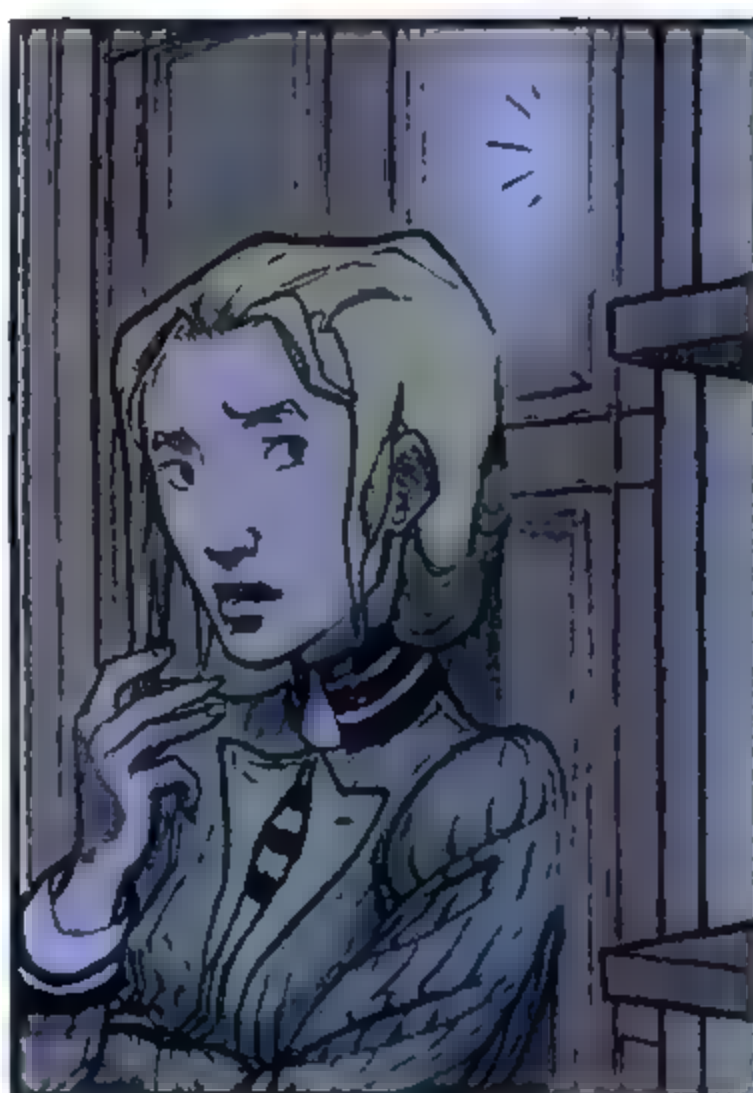
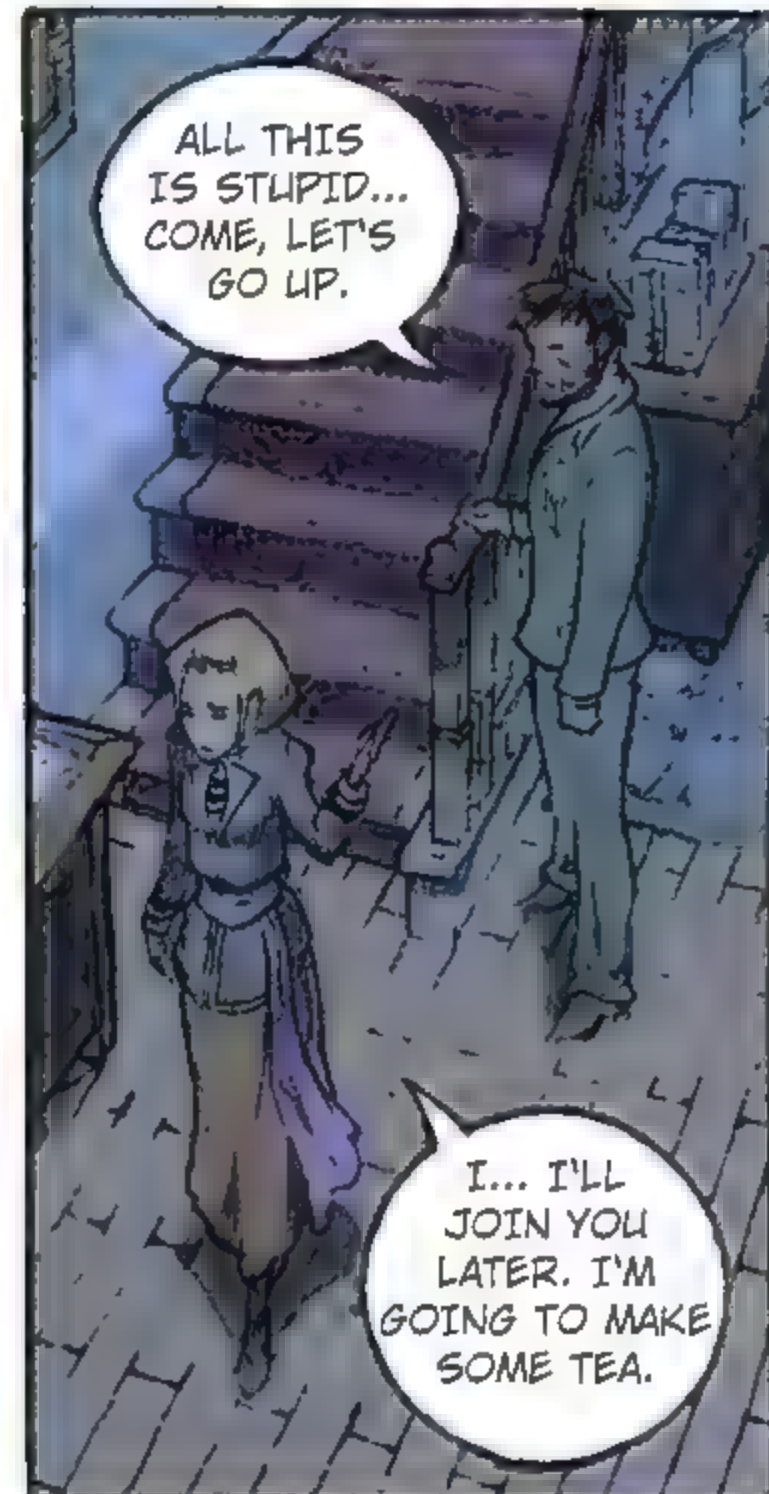
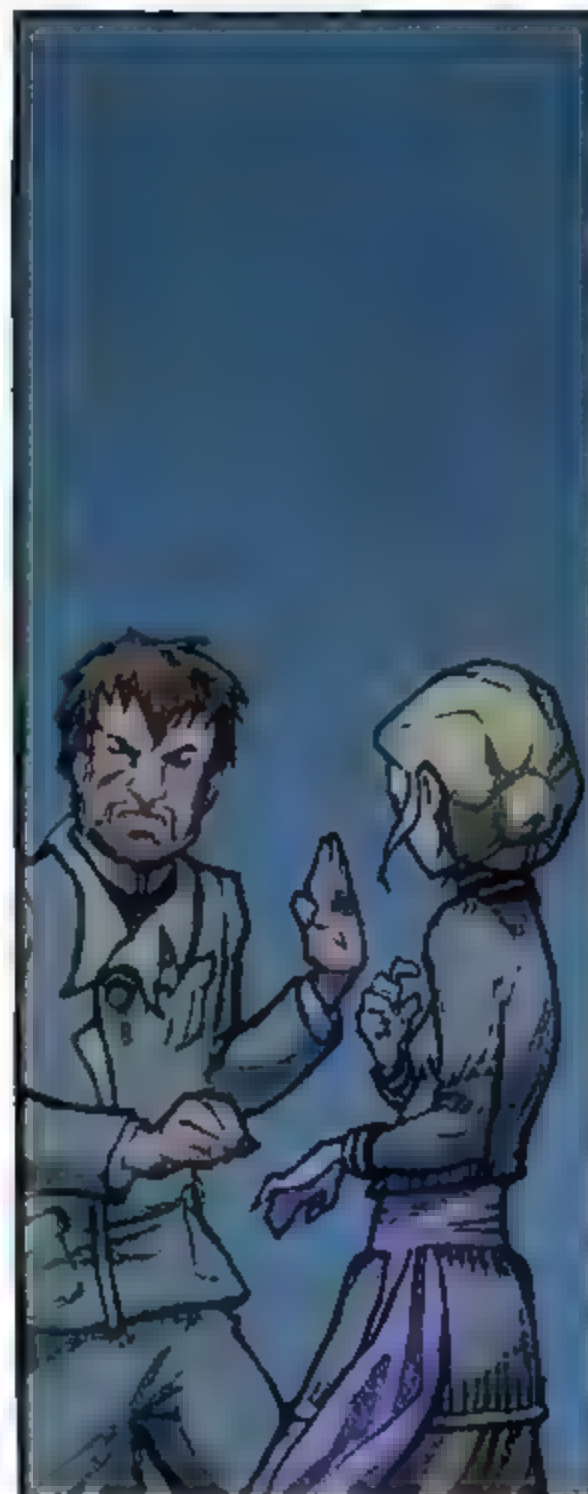
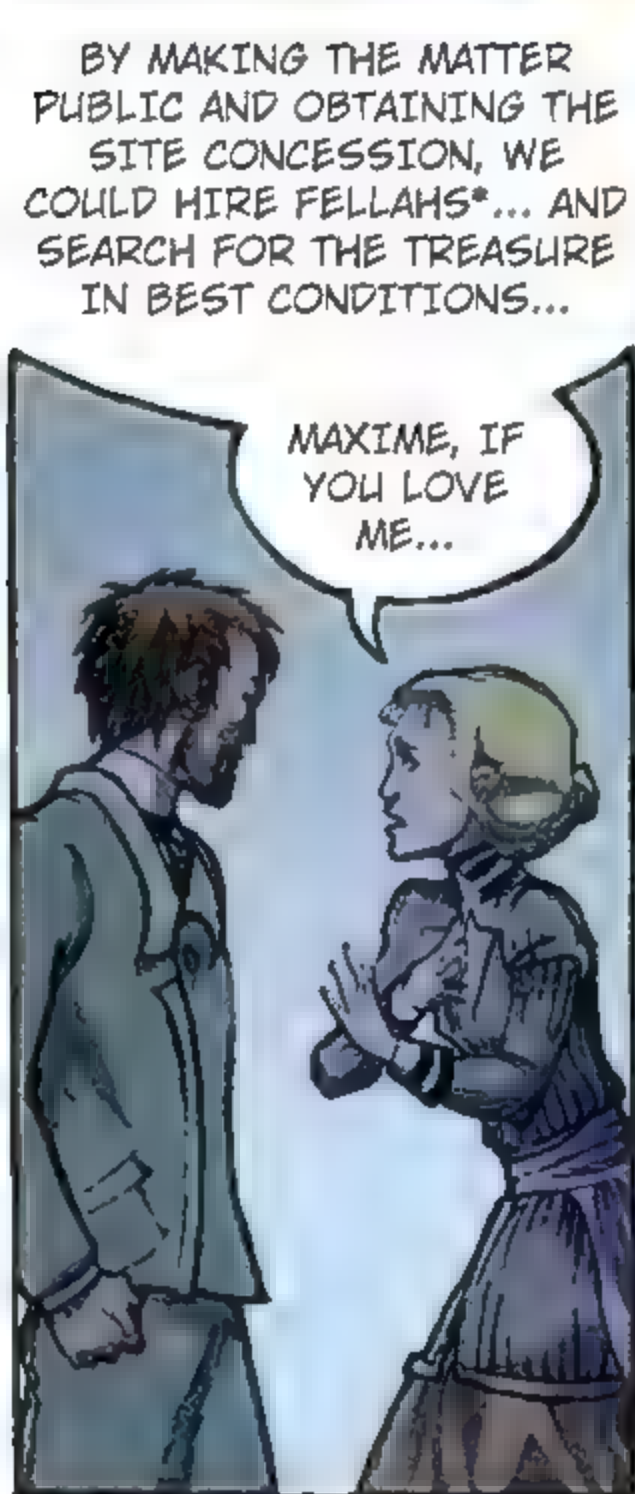
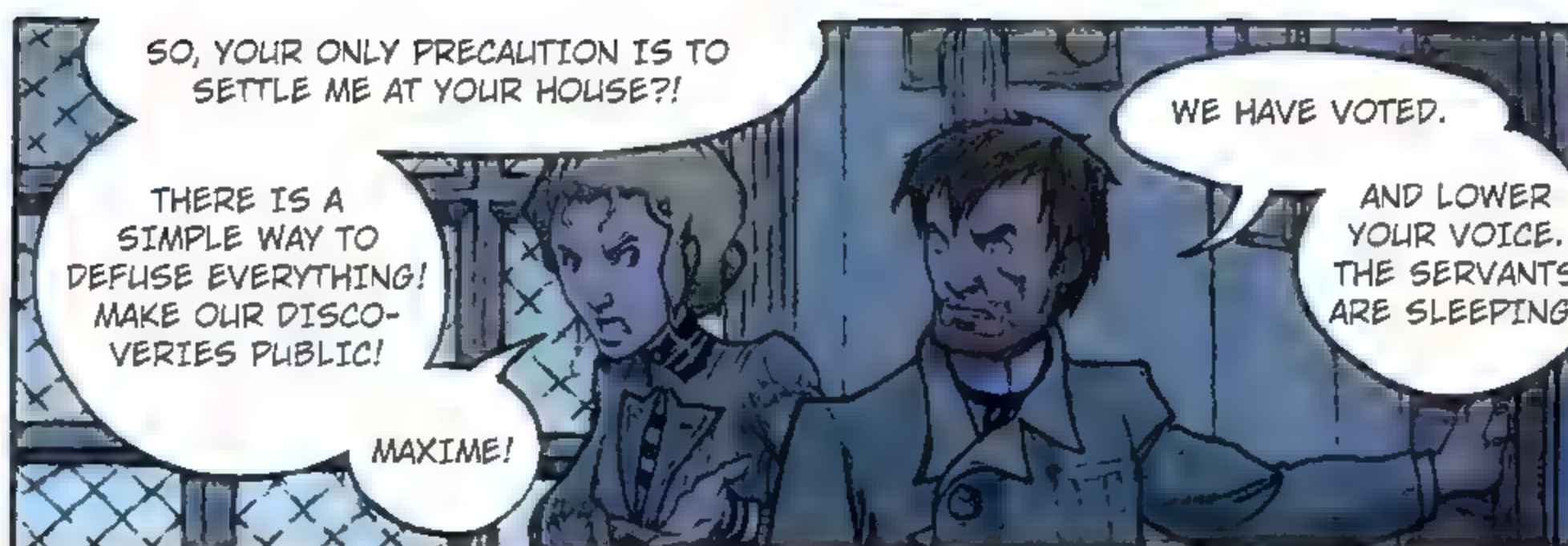
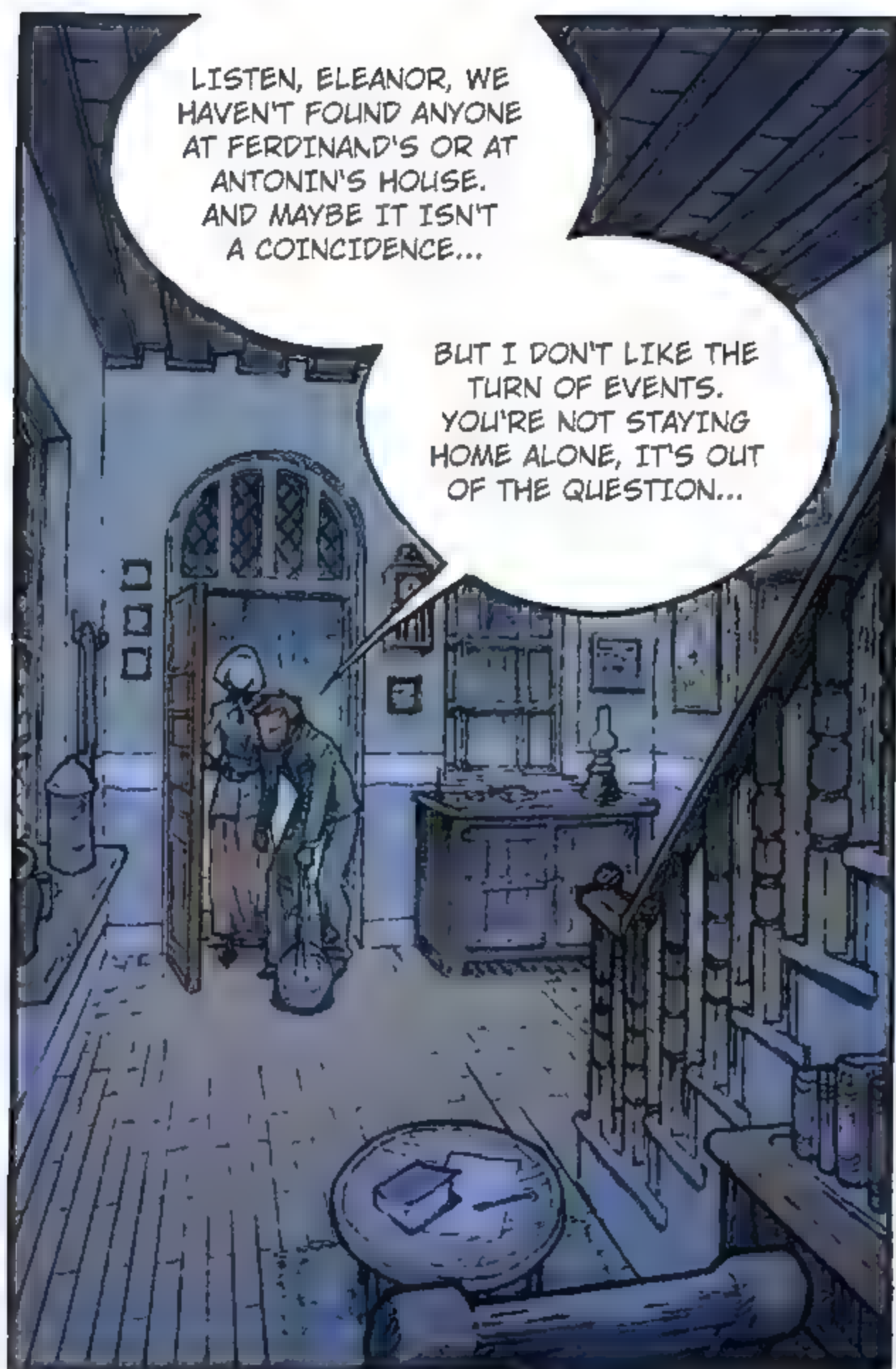


ARE YOU
TRYING TO
SAY...

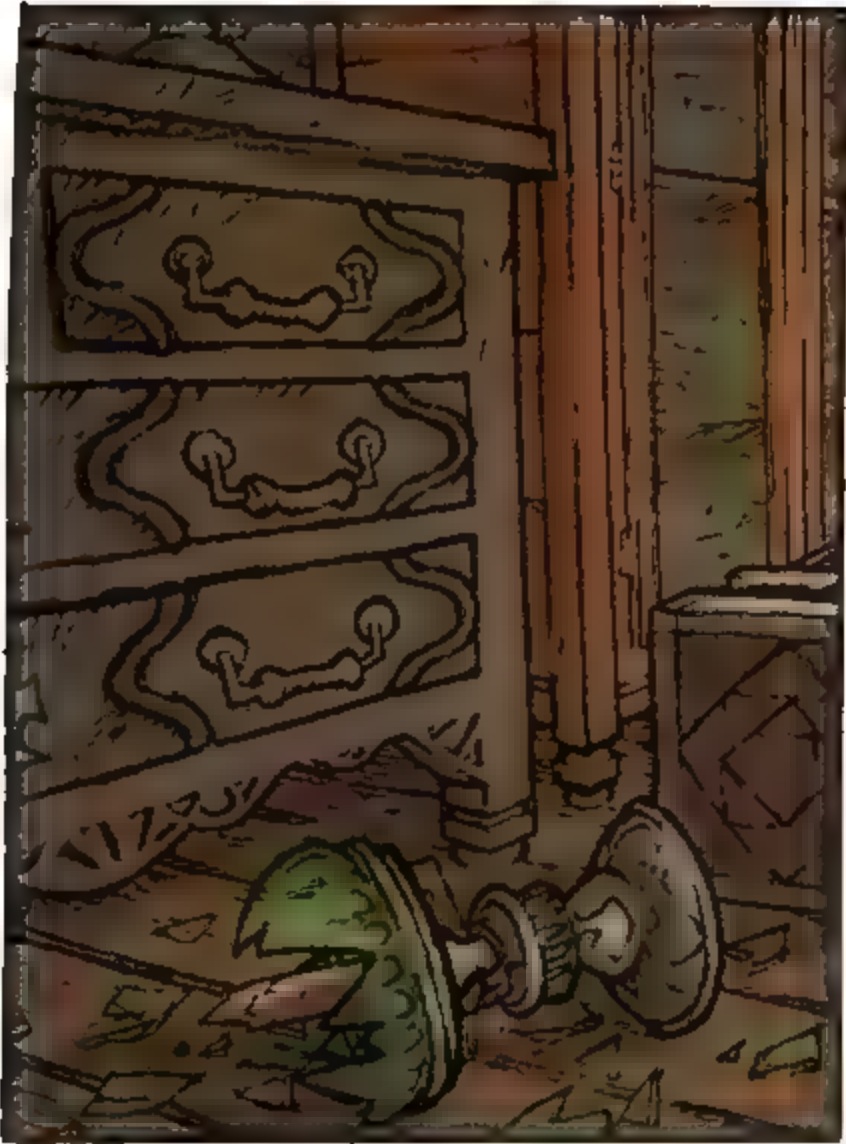
GENTLEMEN! SOME
MUTUAL TRUST IS
NECESSARY IN THIS
BUSINESS!



FINE, FINE... LAZARUS,
FORGIVE ME. AND I BEG
YOU, WAIT TWO OR THREE
DAYS BEFORE YOU TAKE
THIS TO MR. MARIETTE.



*FELLAH: A PEASANT OR AGRICULTURAL LABORER





AND I BELIEVE THAT YOU HAD THE INEXPRESSIBLE HAPPINESS TO FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR... AT LEAST PARTLY.



THEREFORE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE A SMALL TALK... BUT NOT HERE.



OF COURSE, WE TOOK CARE OF YOUR SERVANTS...



...THEY ARE GENTLY SLEEPING IN THE BACK KITCHEN...

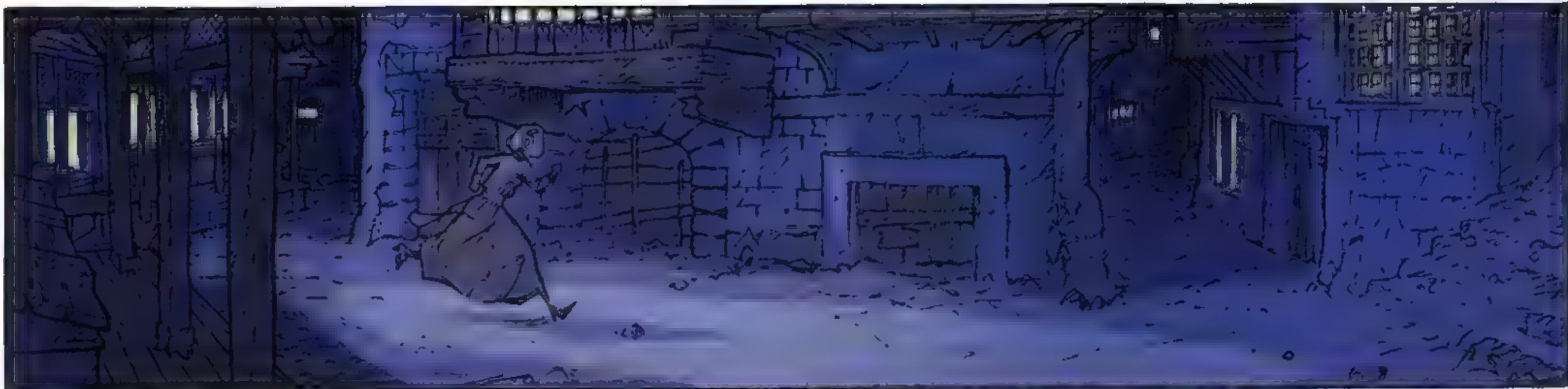


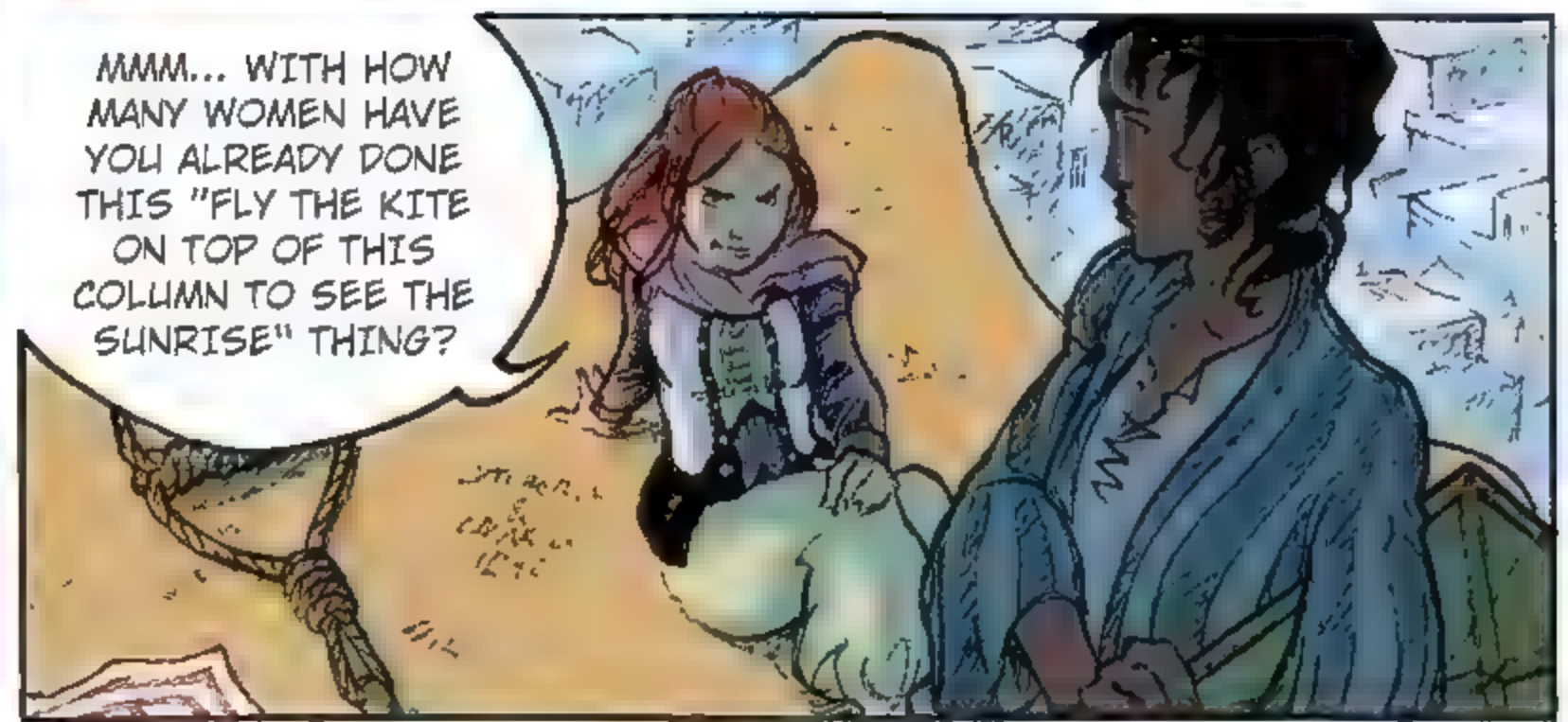
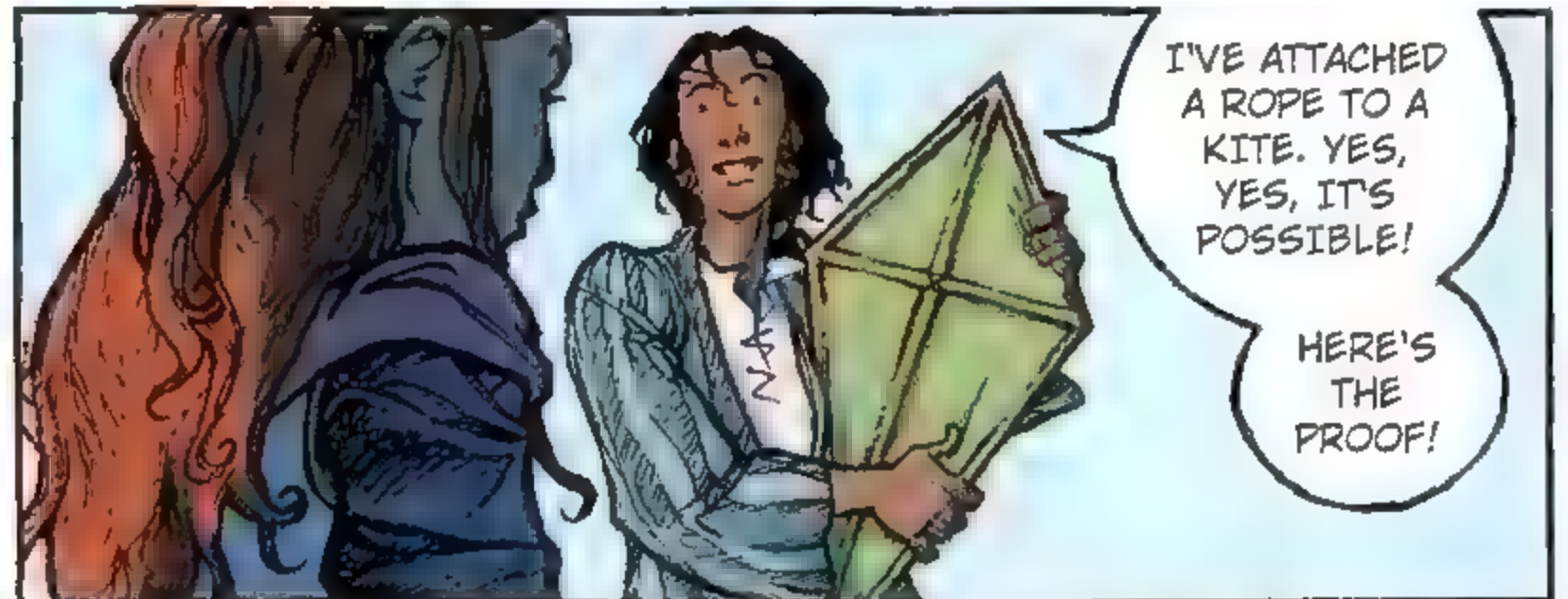
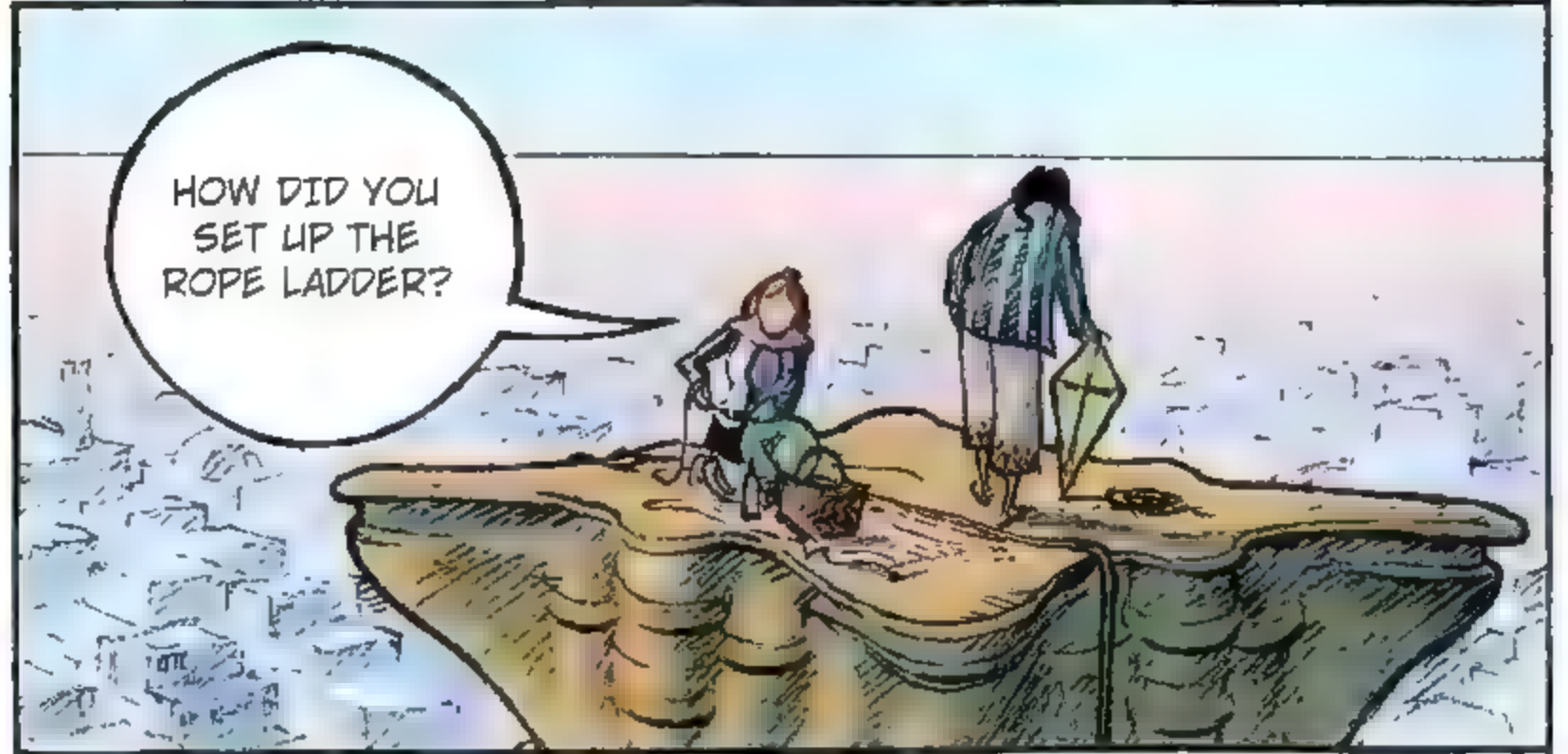
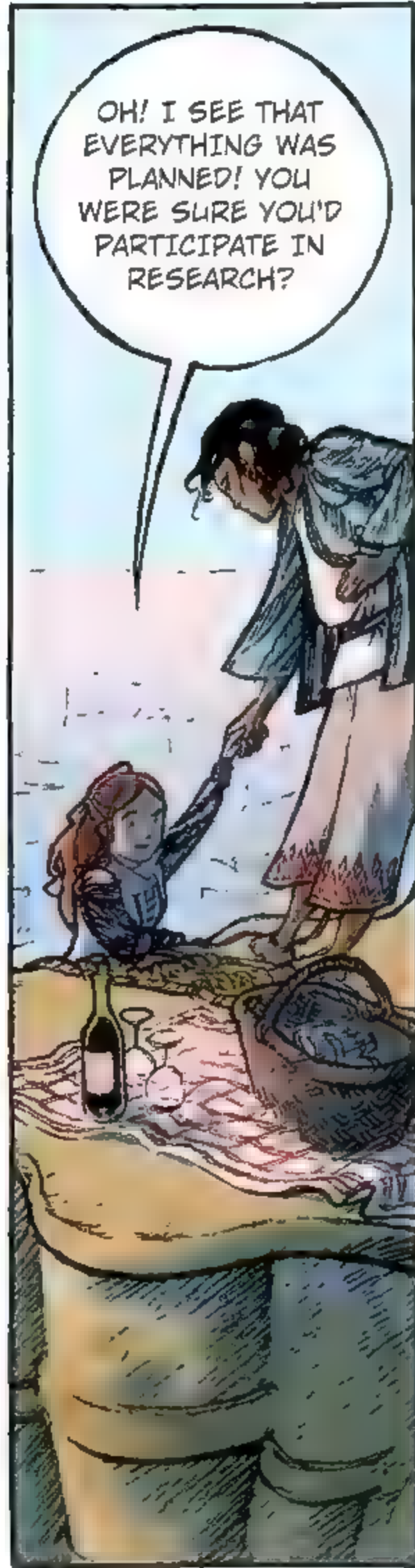
...BUT I DON'T LIKE TO QUESTION A PRISONER IN HIS HOME, I'M NOT COMFORTABLE THERE.

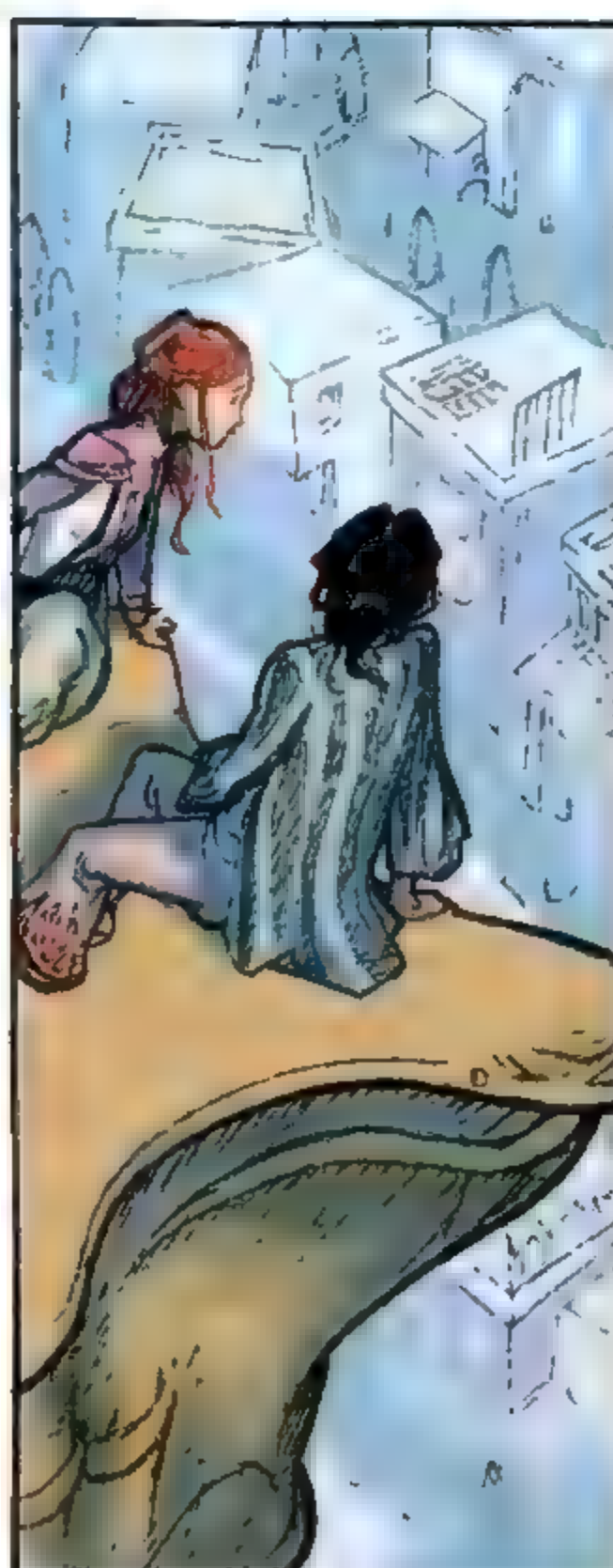
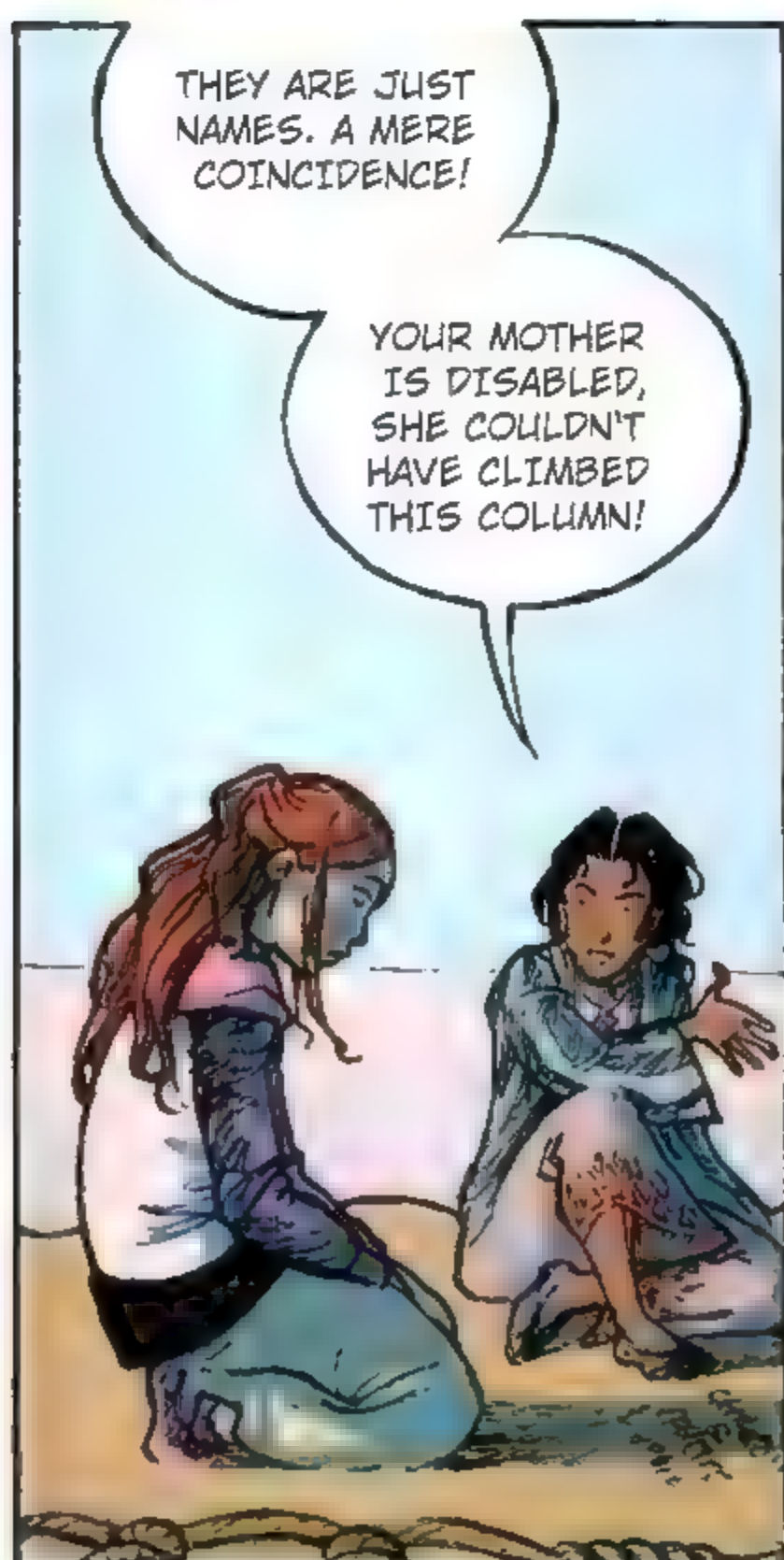
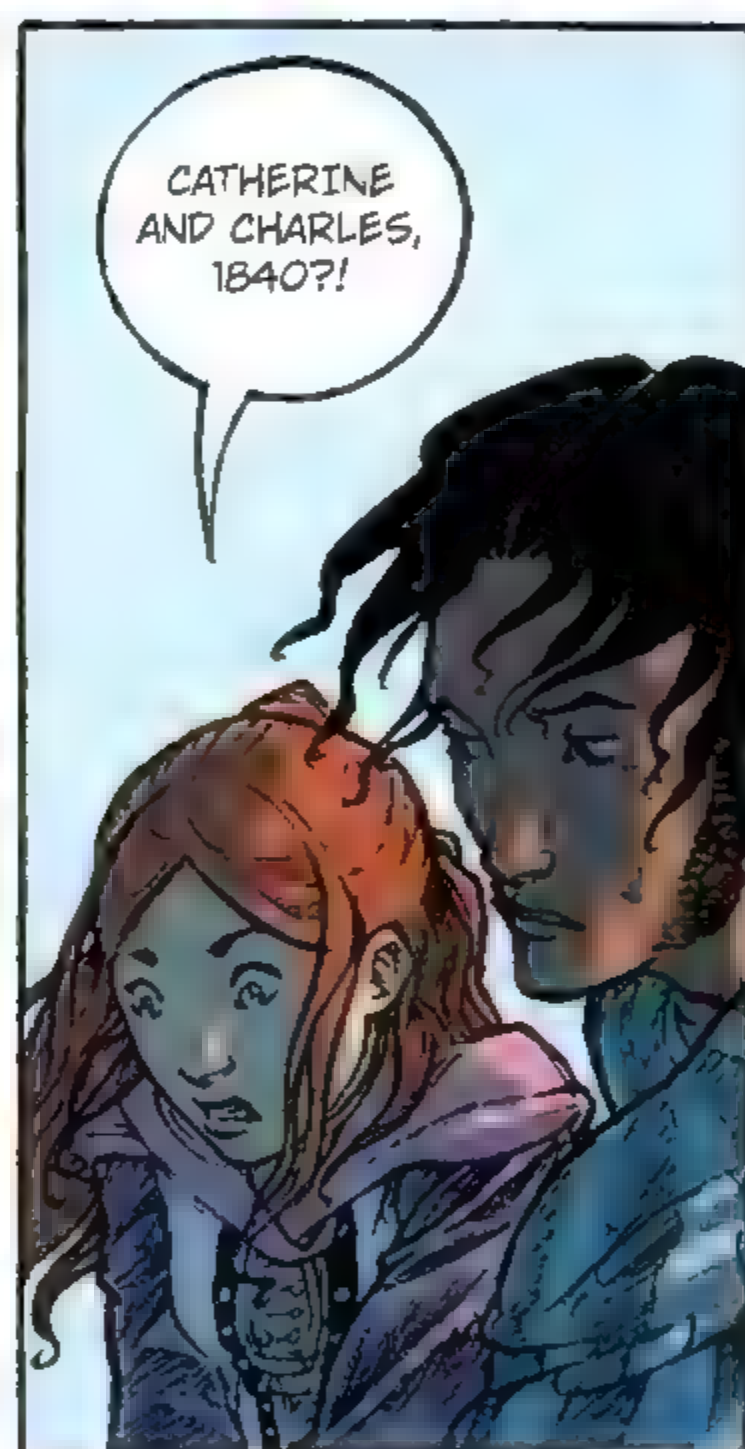


AH! ALL GOOD, SELIM?

VERY WELL. WE'RE LEAVING, MR. DE SENCILLAC!

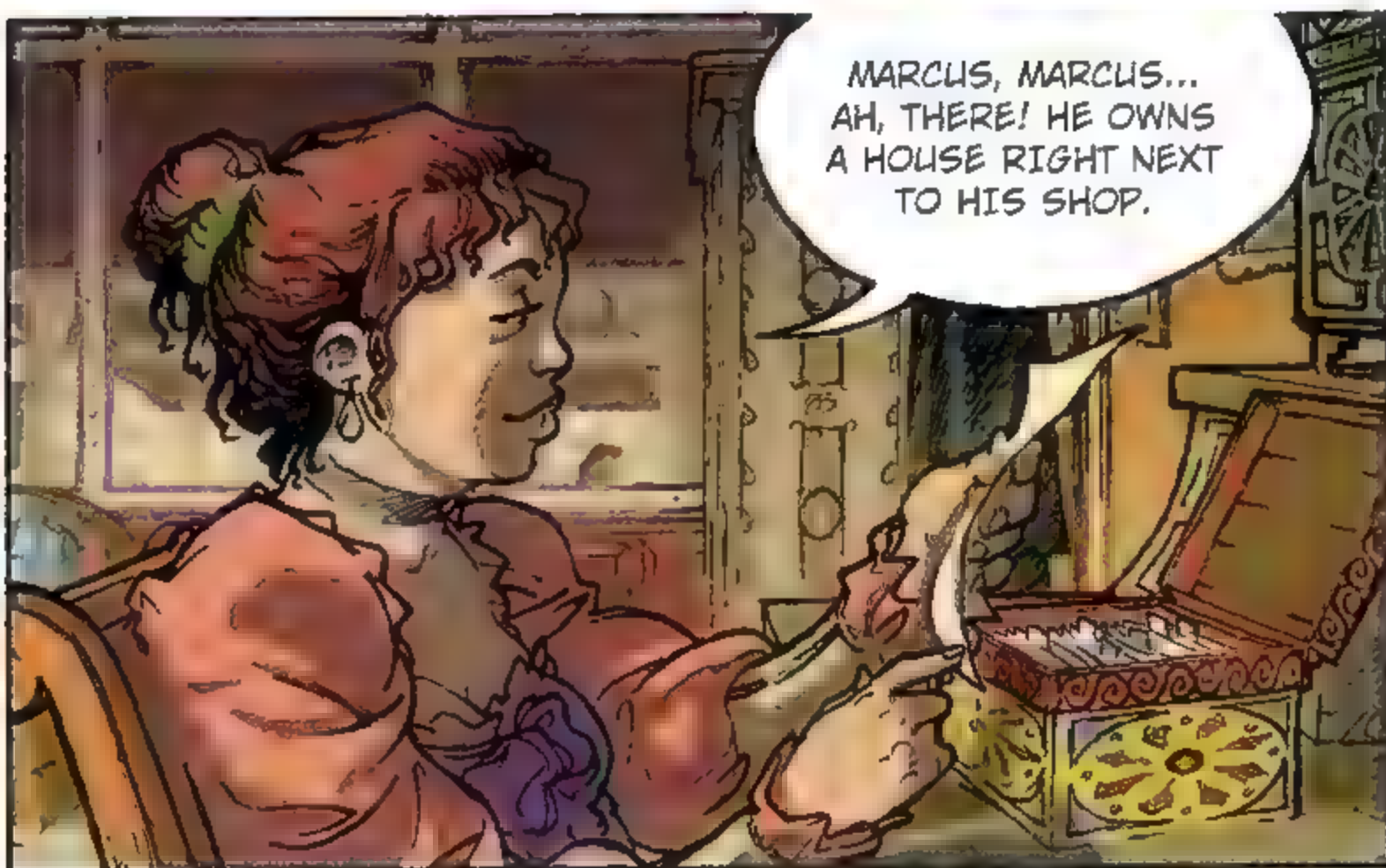


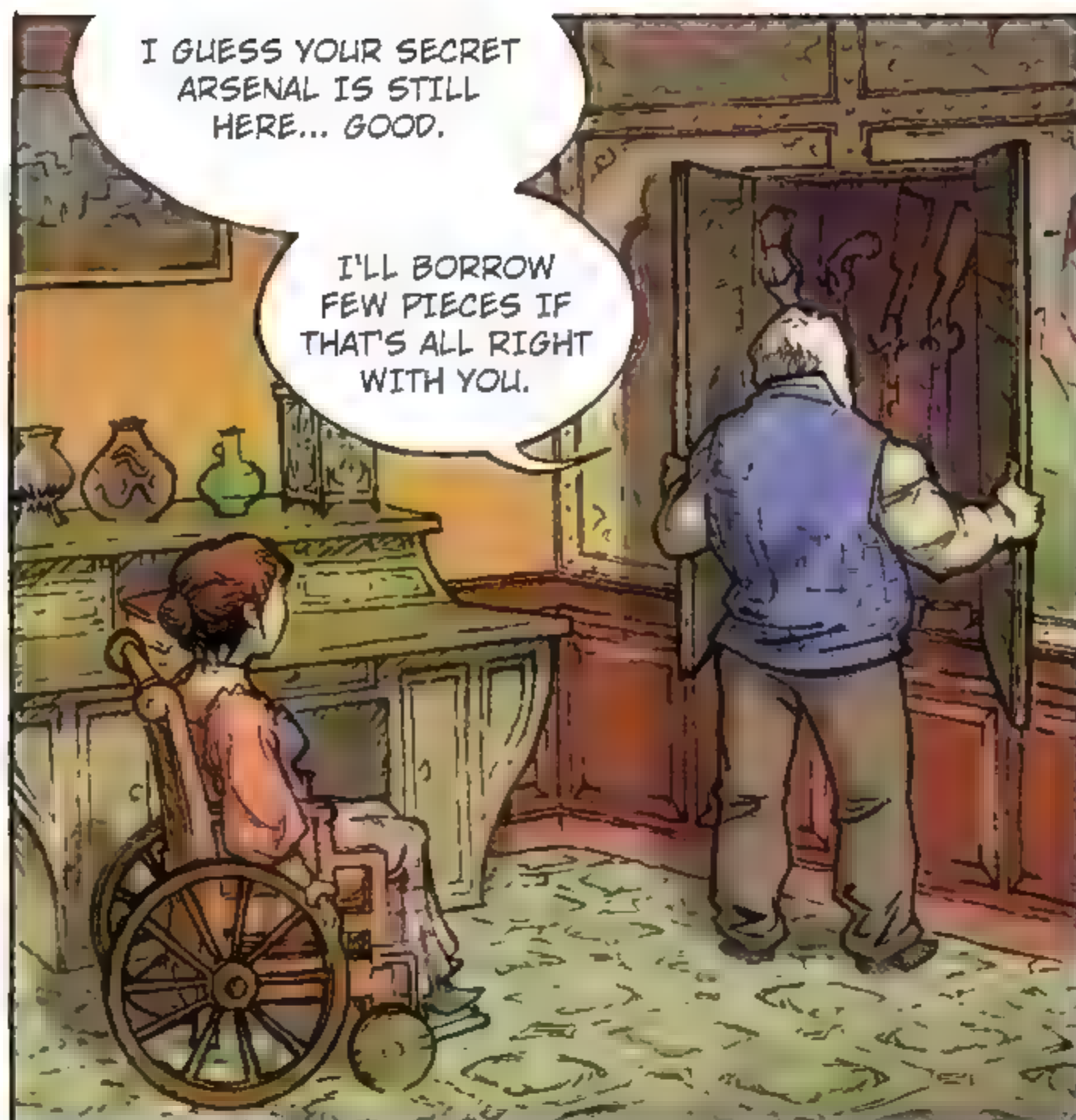






AND CLOSE THE DOOR. LORD ARSHER RENTED NANETTE AND GREEN BOUDOIR. HE HAS THIS FLOOR FOR TWO NIGHTS, IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD IF THIS LADY IS NOTICED HERE...





YOU'RE DEFINITELY THE ONLY ONE TO THINK THAT SHE NEVER HAD ONE. I REMIND YOU THAT SHE IS MY BASTARD. YOUR NAME AND YOUR EDUCATION WON'T SAVE HER. SHE'S AN OUTCAST.

WHAT'S LOST IS LOST, LET HER HAVE SOME FUN. THIS KID LAZARUS IS CHARMING...

...AND HANDSOME.

YOU... YOU... WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS!

I MUST GO SAVE MAXIME, BUT AFTER THAT, WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE CHAT!

I'LL COME WITH YOU.

YOU... WHAT?!

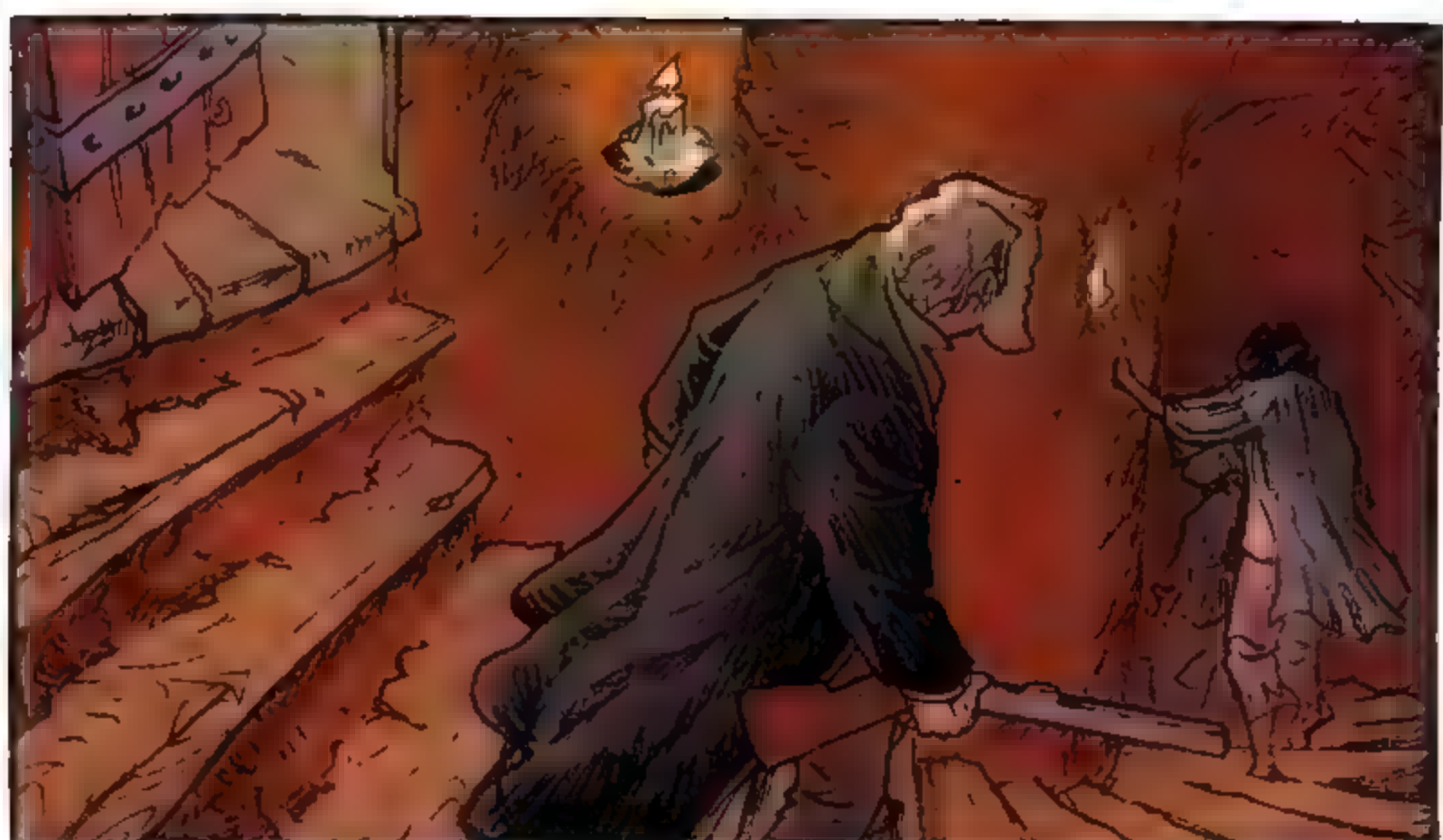
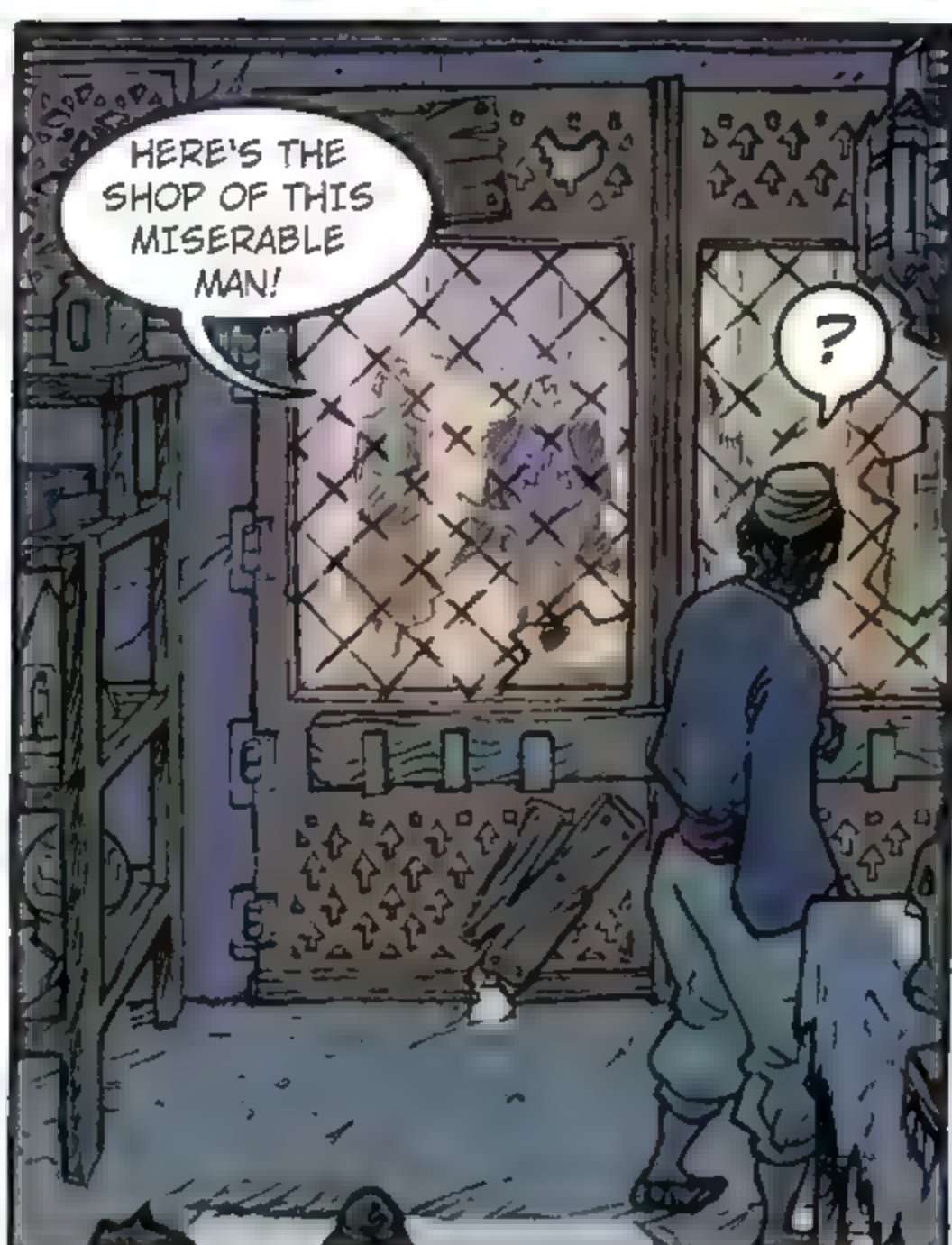
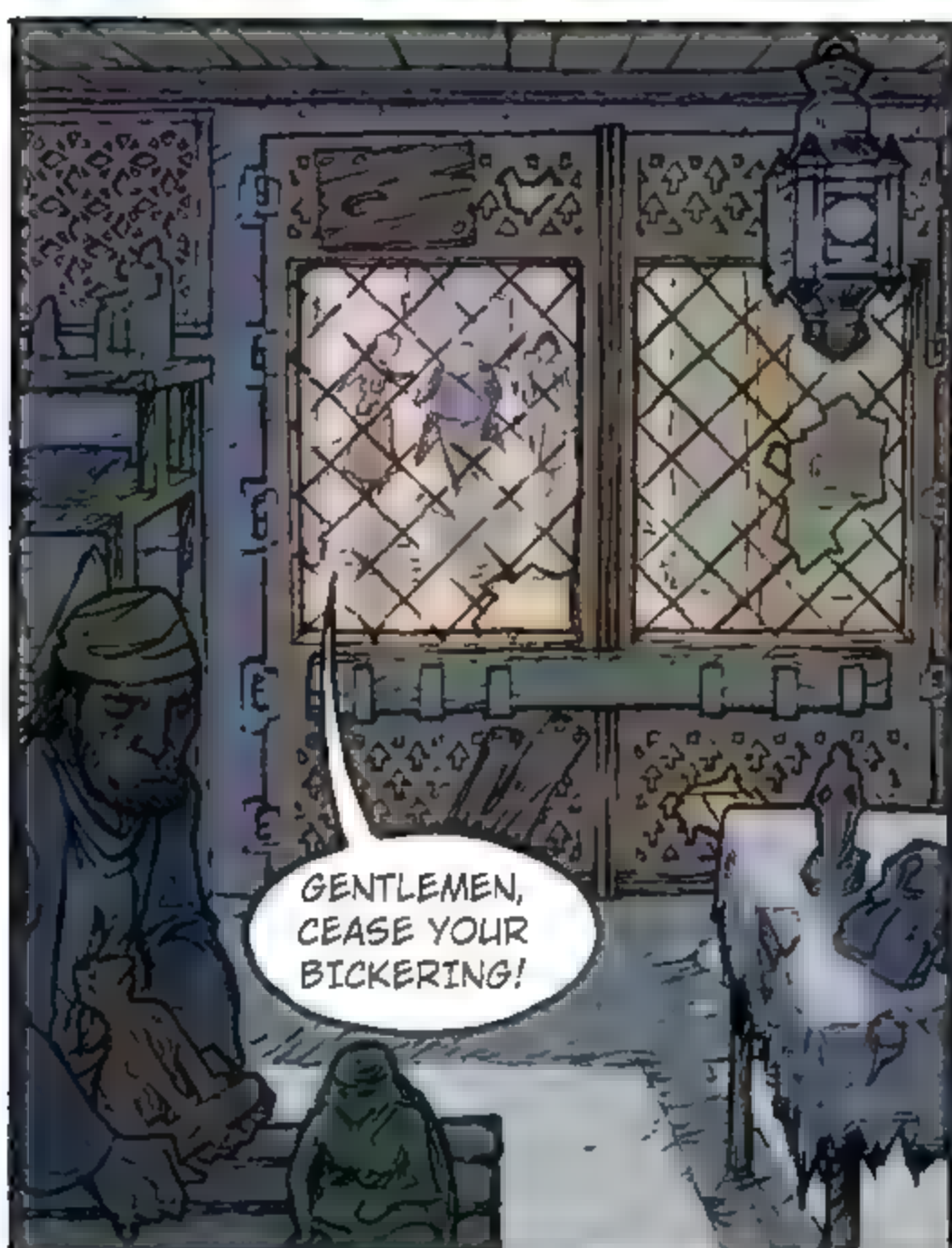
I'M NEITHER YOUR DAUGHTER NOR YOUR WIFE, I CAN DO WHAT I WANT.

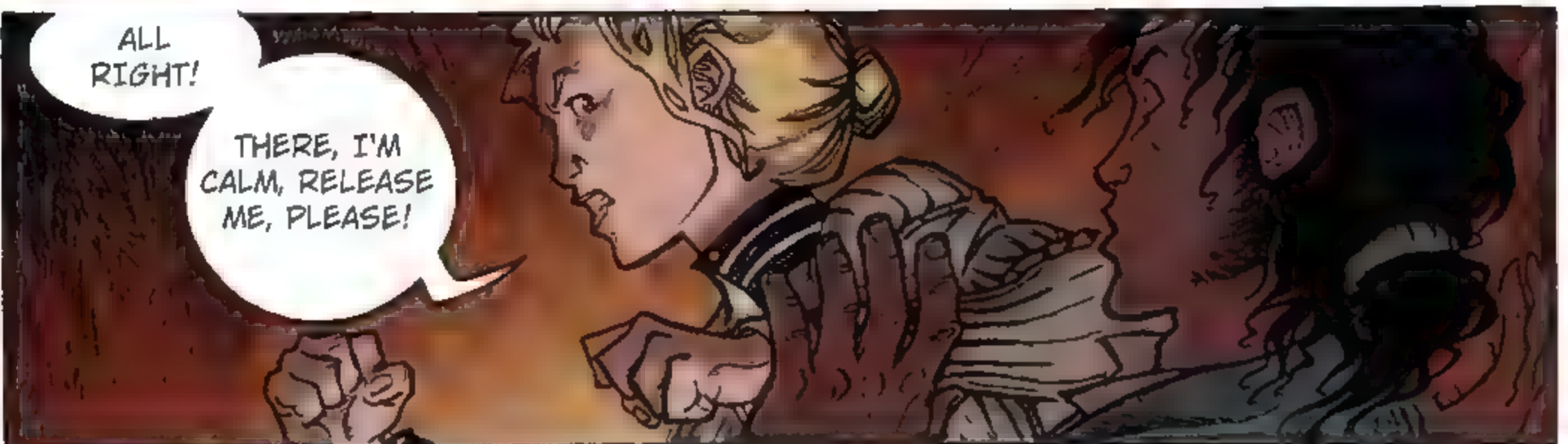
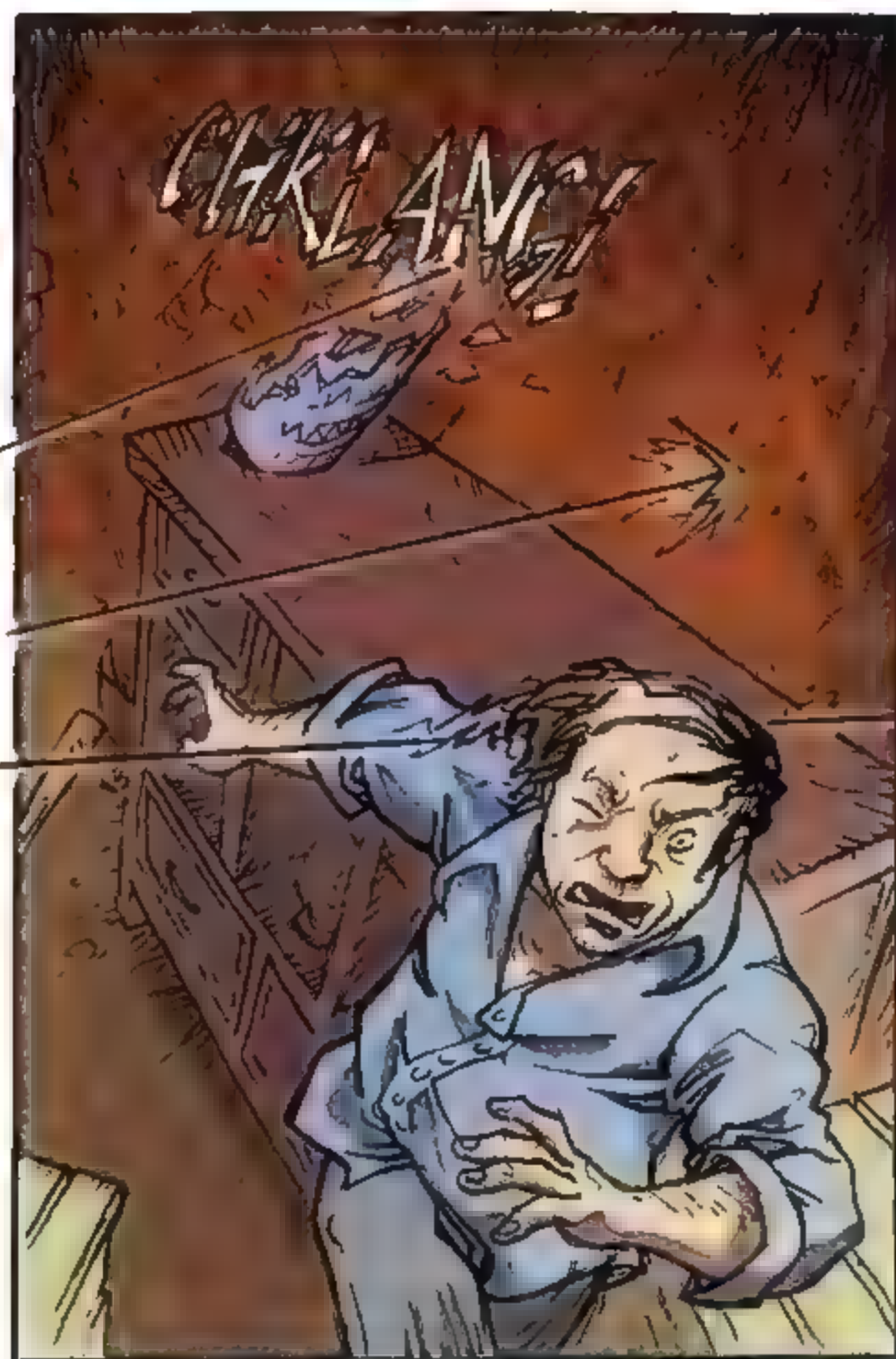
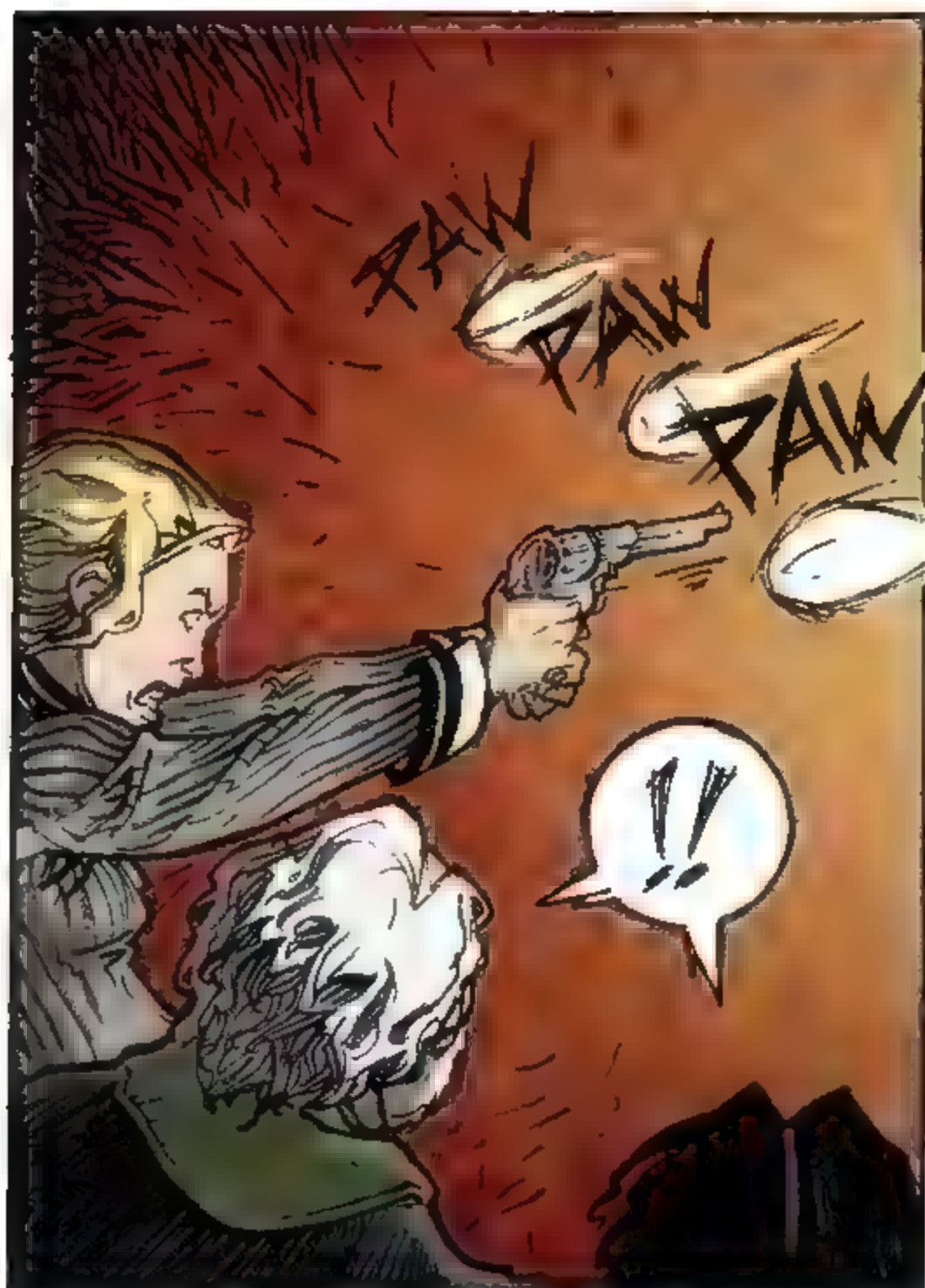
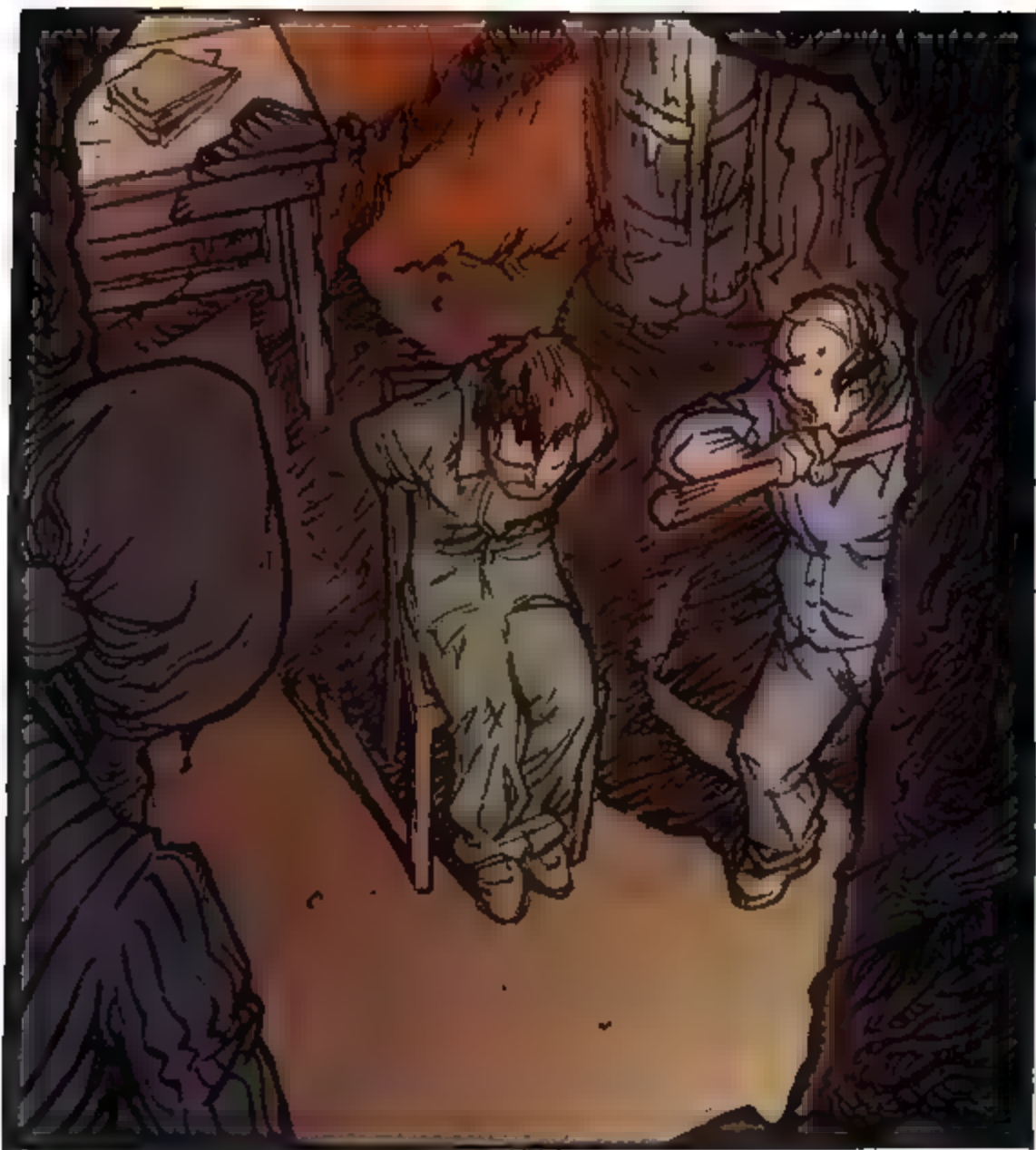
AND I'LL HELP YOU FIND MR. SENCILLAC!

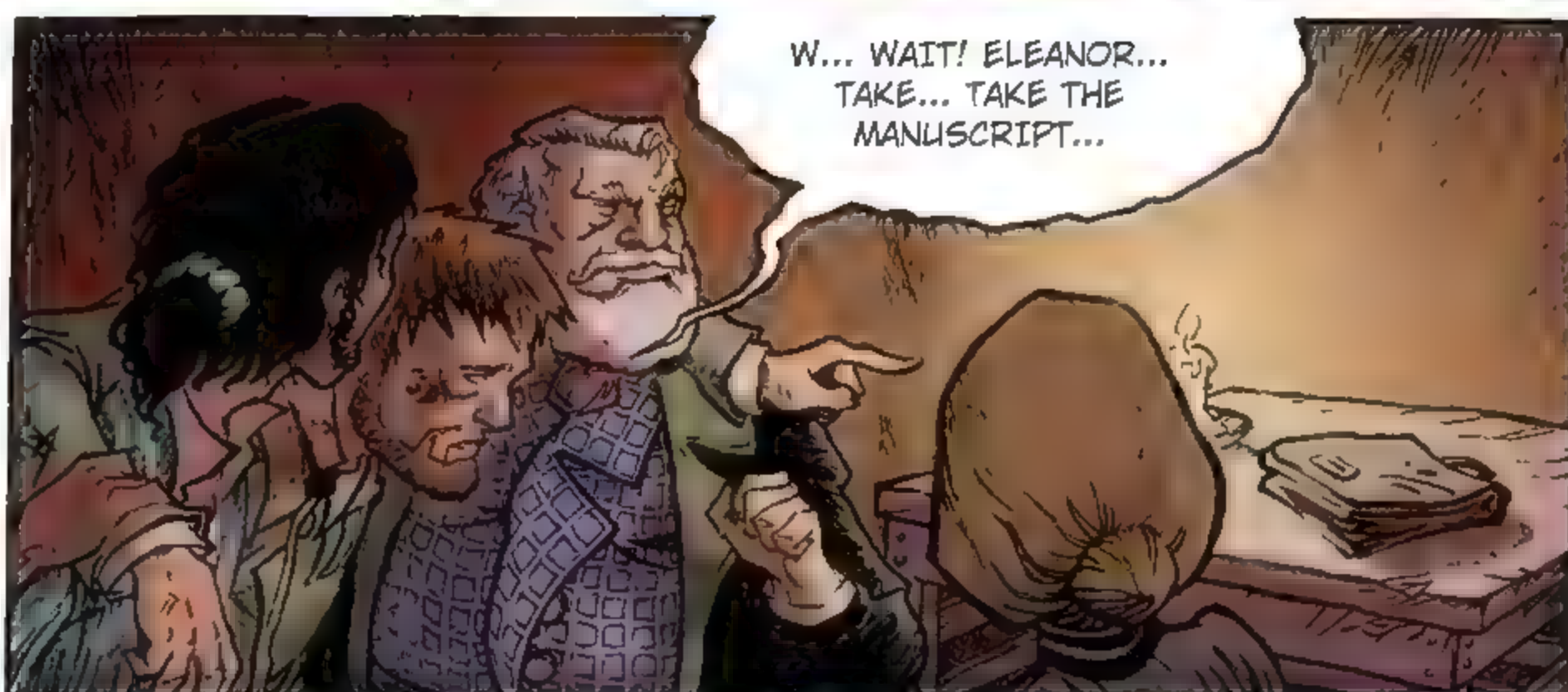
THEN COME, ELEANOR, BUT BE AWARE THAT I WON'T SERVE AS YOUR BODYGUARD!

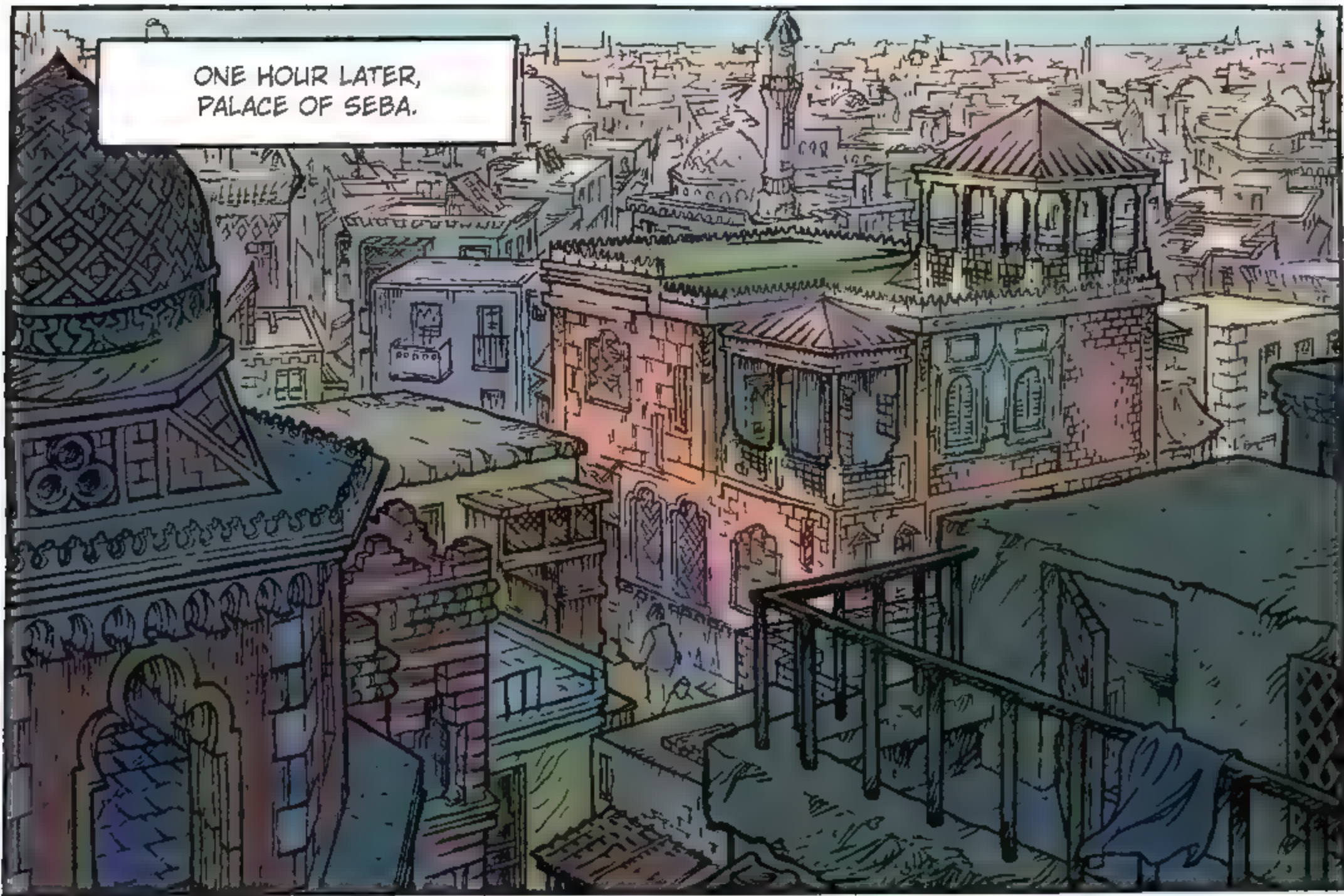
CATHERINE, I'LL BORROW ONE OF YOUR BEST SERVANTS, SO THAT LOUISE IS BROUGHT BACK HERE IN SAFE HANDS WHILE WE GO FIGHT!

I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO NEED TO WISH YOU GOOD LUCK?





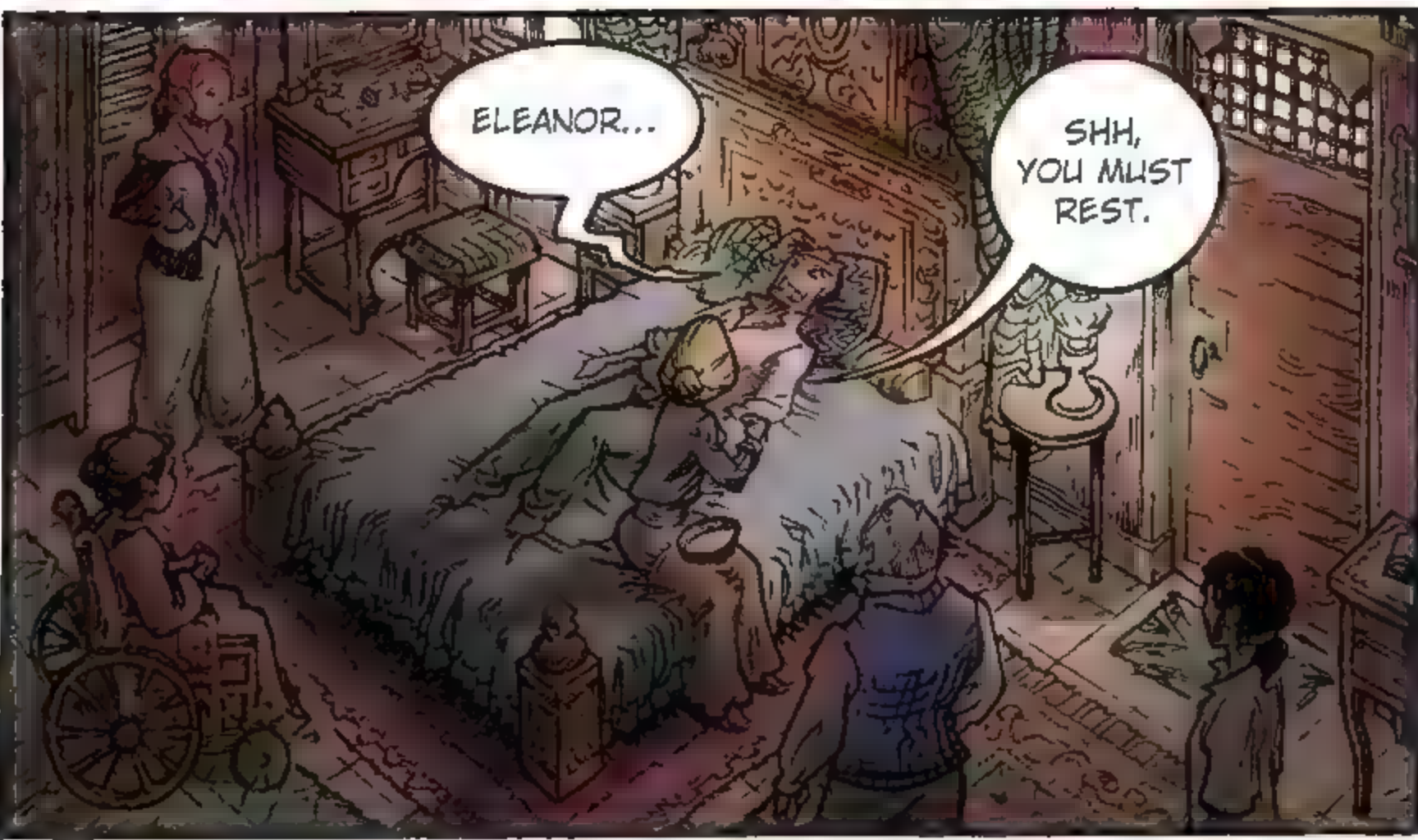




ONE HOUR LATER,
PALACE OF SEBA.



BRING ME
ADDITIONAL
TOWELS,
PLEASE...



ELEANOR...

SHH,
YOU MUST
REST.



FOR HEAVEN'S
SAKE, LADY, TRAN-
SLATE THIS!



I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, IT'S
ANCIENT GREEK! EARLY EGYPTIAN
NEOLOGISMS, I NEED MY BOOKS
TO STUDY IT...

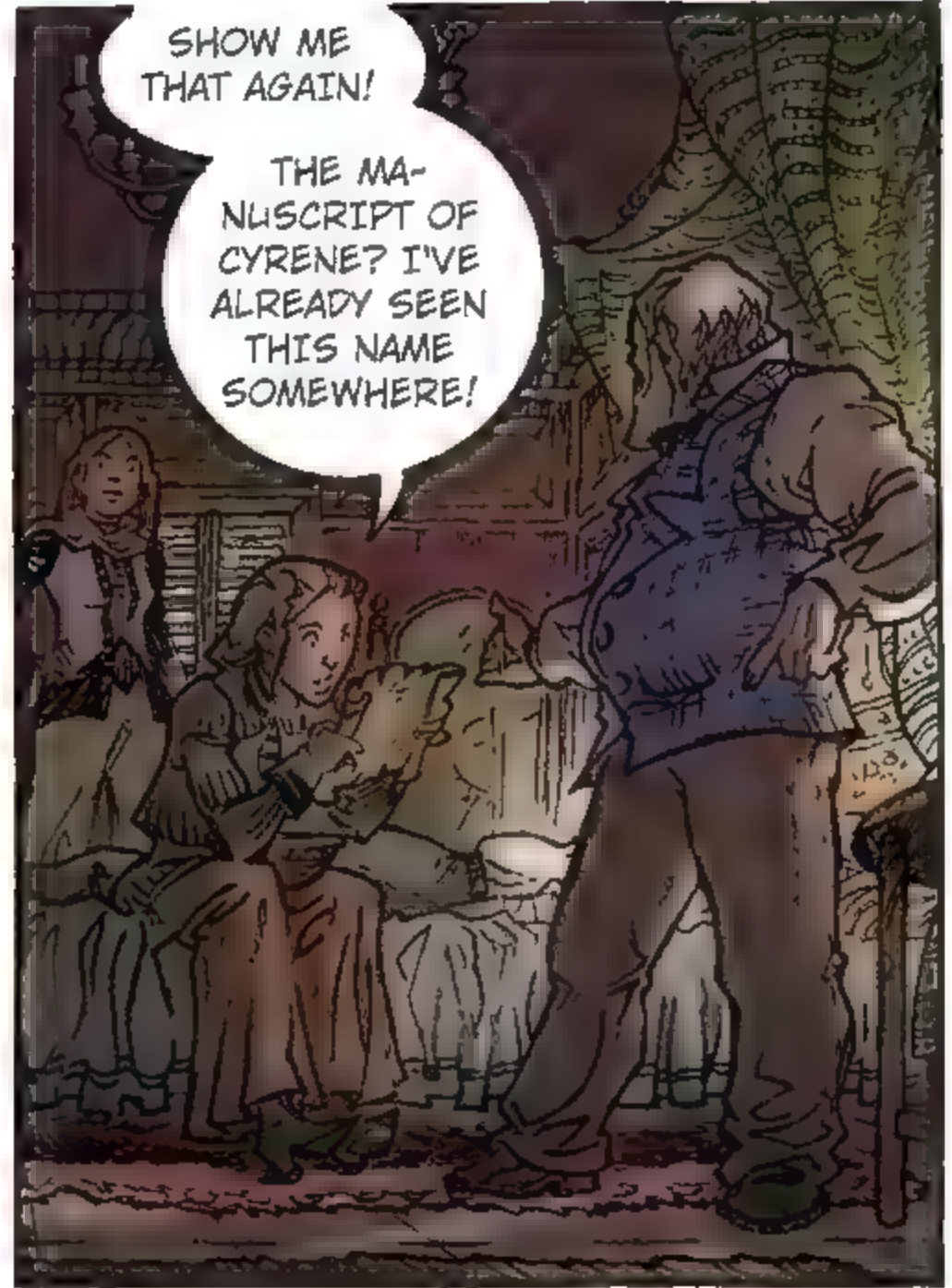


...WHICH RE-
MAINED AT MY
HOME!

THIS CAN
WA...

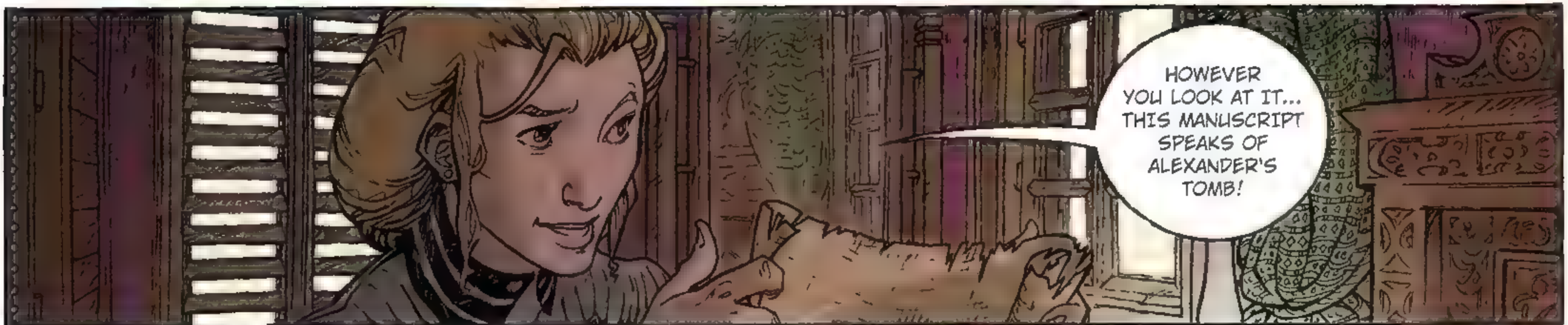


?!
..



SHOW ME
THAT AGAIN!

THE MA-
NUSCRIPT OF
CYRENE? I'VE
ALREADY SEEN
THIS NAME
SOMEWHERE!



HOWEVER
YOU LOOK AT IT...
THIS MANUSCRIPT
SPEAKS OF
ALEXANDER'S
TOMB!



GOOD, THAT'S ENOUGH OF YOUR CARE, ELEANOR! THIS BOY IS DYING FROM DESIRE TO TELL US WHAT HAPPENED, AND YOU TRANSFORM HIS INTO A MUMMY INSTEAD OF LISTENING TO HIM!



GO ON, MAXIME, SPEAK!

...



THEY... KNOW THAT WE FOUND SOMETHING... THEY WANTED... THEY THOUGHT WE HAD THE OTHER FRAGMENTS OF THE MANUSCRIPT...



PUT TOGETHER... IT WILL ALLOW YOU TO... FIND THE TOMB...



FERDINAND WAS ON THE TRAIL OF AN ANCIENT MAP WHEN HE DISAPPEARED...

THIS CURSED BELGIAN, PAID BY THE ENGLISH, WILL KILL TO GRAB IT!



TOC TOC TOC

?

?



FORGIVE MY INTRUSION...

LORD ARSHER, OH MY GOD...



...YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE WITH THE DOOR! NANETTE AWAITS IN A ROOM NEXT TO US!



I DON'T THINK SO, MADAM.

!!

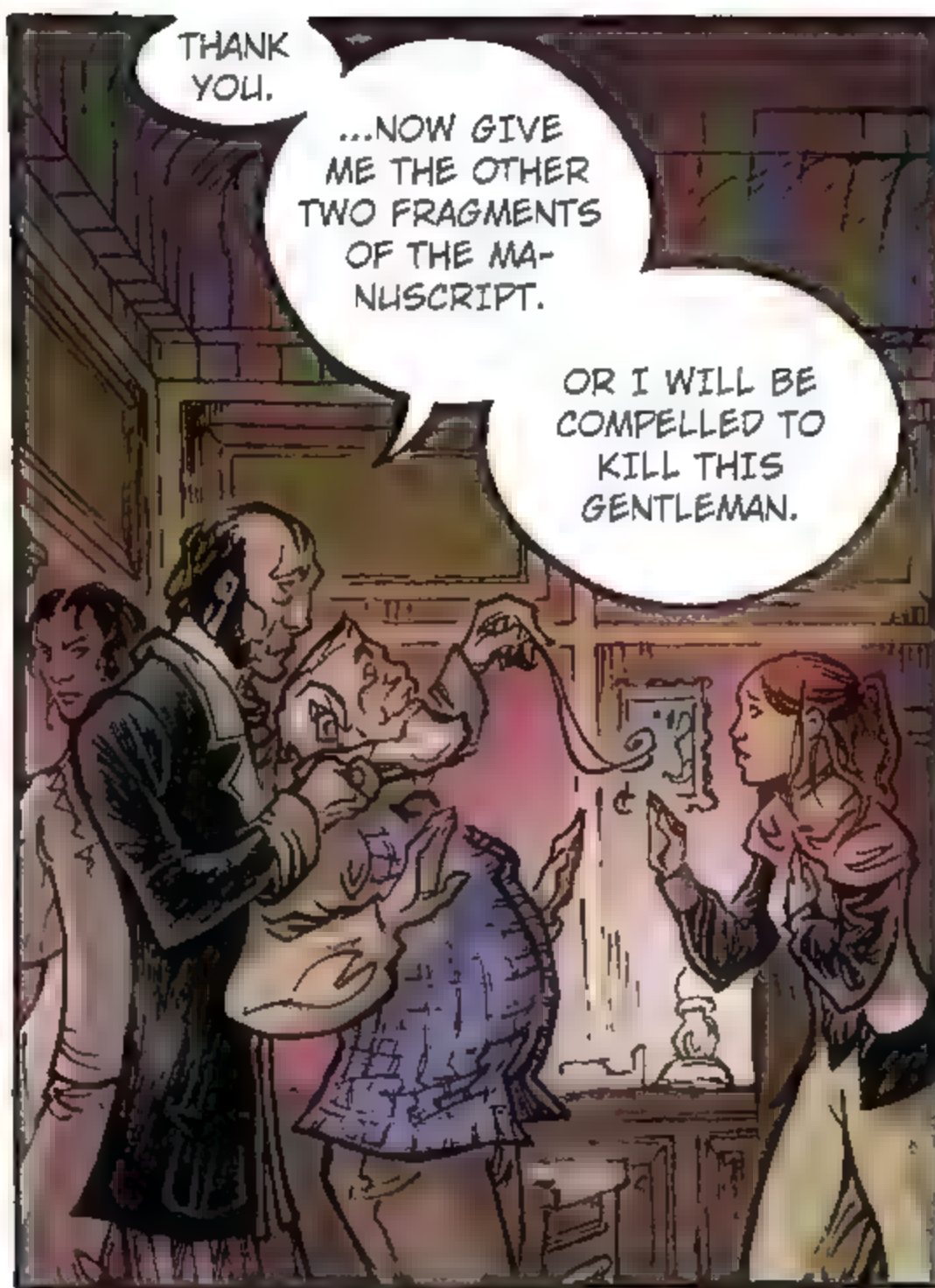


MY INFORMANTS SAID THE TRUTH, YOU'VE COLLECTED MR. DE SENCILLAC...

MISS...



...WOULD YOU BE SO KIND TO PICK UP... AND GIVE ME THE PARCHMENT?



THANK YOU.

...NOW GIVE ME THE OTHER TWO FRAGMENTS OF THE MANUSCRIPT.

OR I WILL BE COMPELLED TO KILL THIS GENTLEMAN.



BUT...

BUT WE DON'T HAVE THEM!



YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE ON THE TRAIL OF ALEXANDER'S TOMB PURELY BY CHANCE?

GIVE IT!

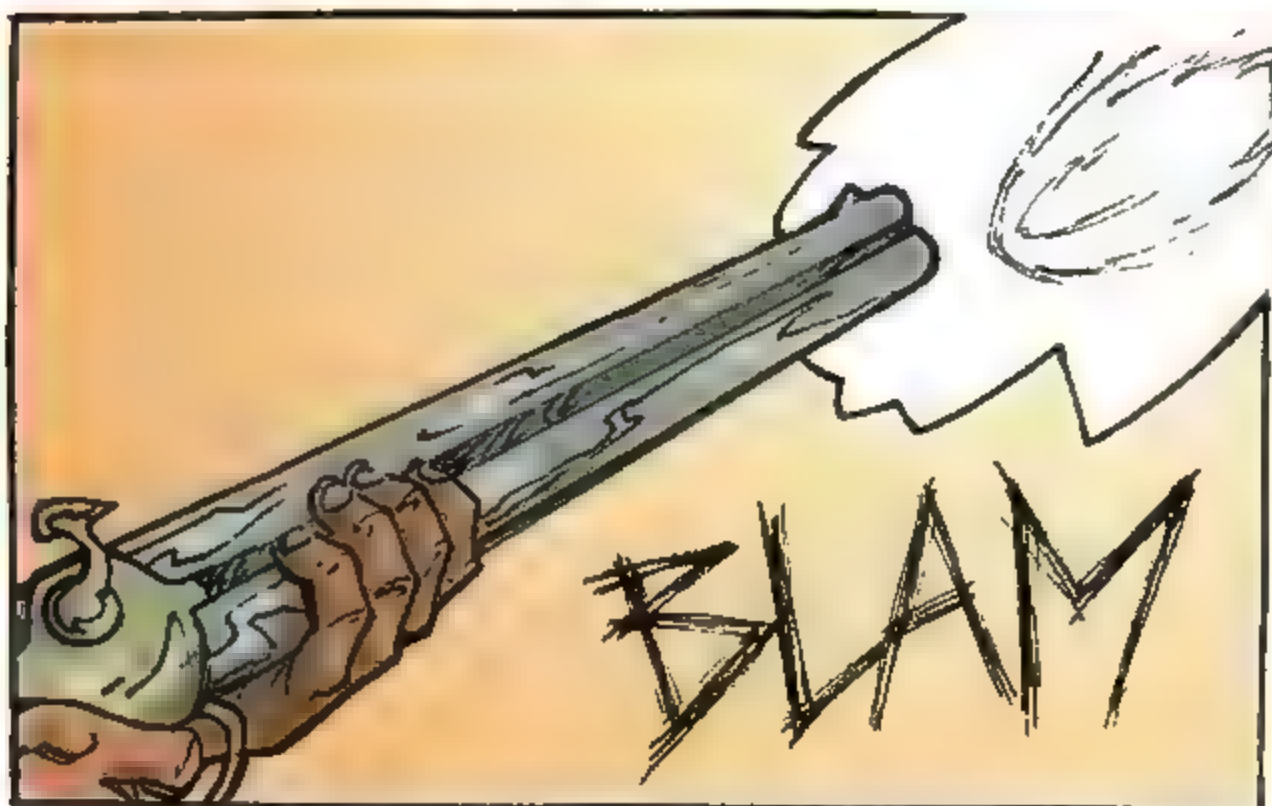


GIVE ME THESE OTHER DOCUMENTS!

OR I KILL THIS MAN!



Nooo



BLAM





OH WELL,
ONE THING IS
CERTAIN...

...HE'S DEAD.



THIS WHOLE DEAL
IS GOING FROM
BAD TO WORSE!



FATHER, LET ME SEE...
ARE YOU HURT?

I'M FINE,
DAUGHTER...



LAZARUS,
THAT WAS A
NICE SHOT!



YOU WILL
AGREE THAT I'M AN
ASSET IN YOUR LIFE
SOMETIMES, SIR!



I'M HAPPY FOR YOUR SUDDEN
MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP, BUT
CAN WE FOCUS ON... ER...
THIS BODY?

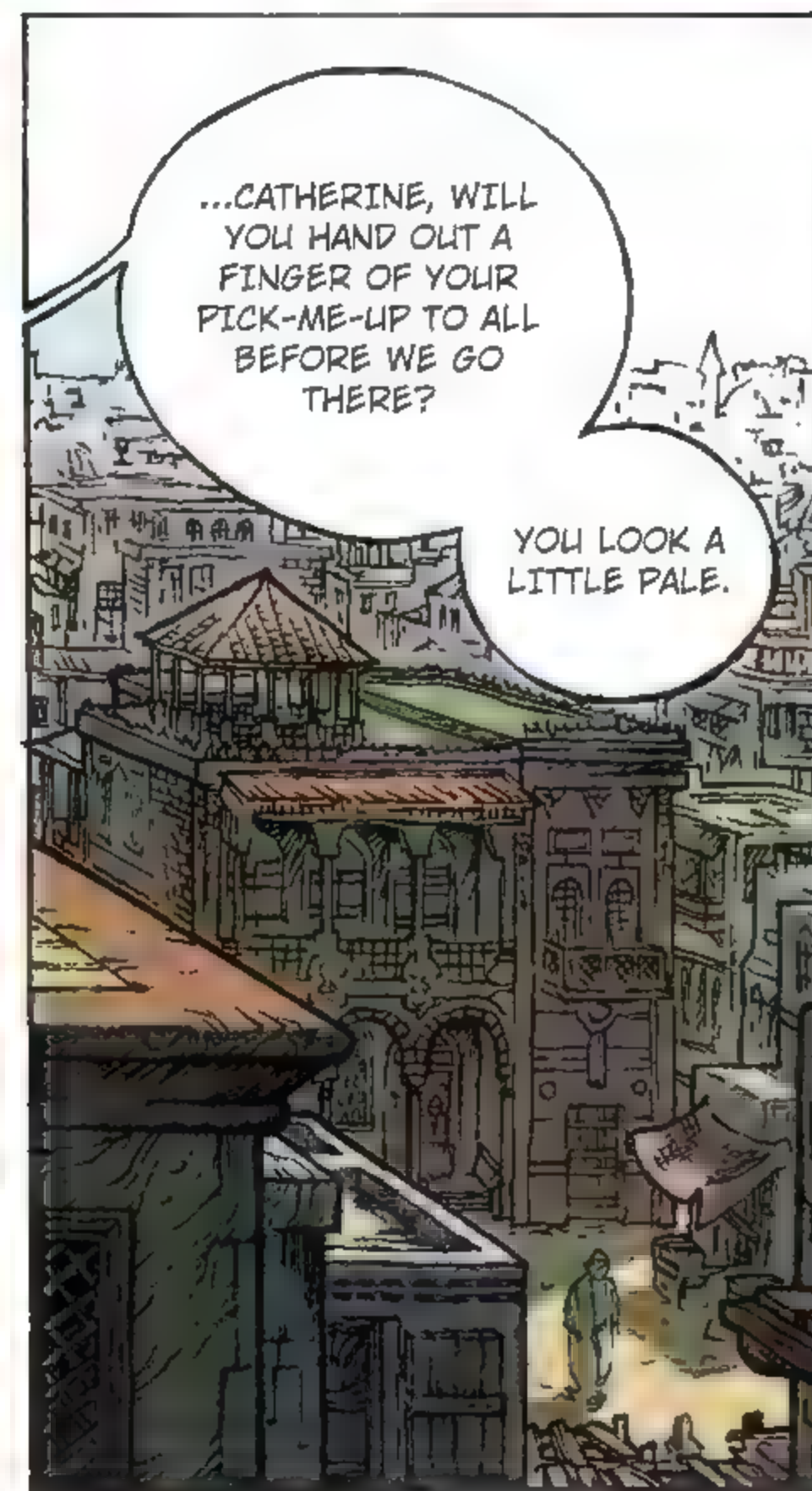
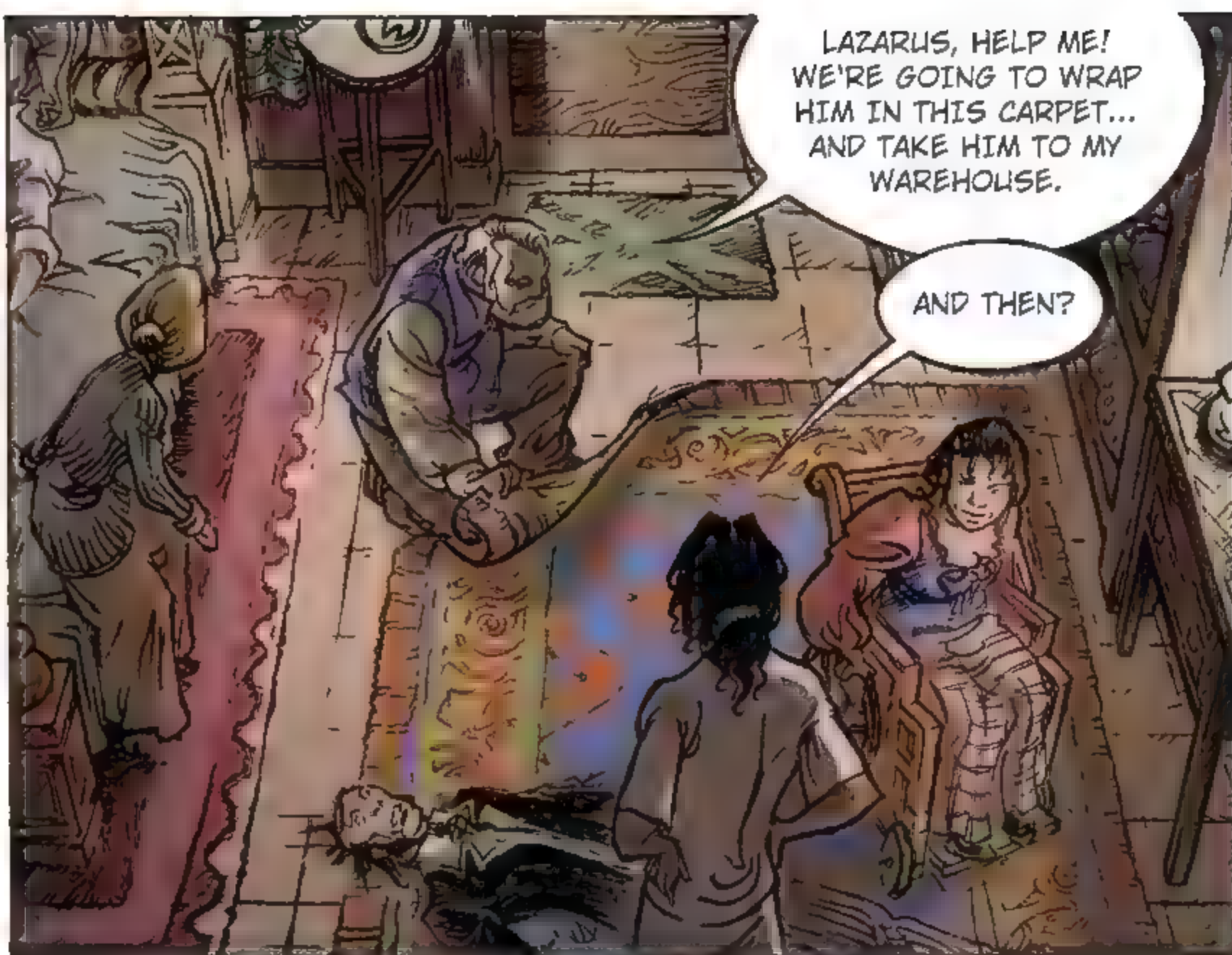


LOUISE, INFORM THE
GIRLS: "EVERYTHING
IS FINE... A SHOOTING
ACCIDENT... IMPRO-
PERLY CLEANED
WEAPON." THEY WILL
KEEP QUIET.

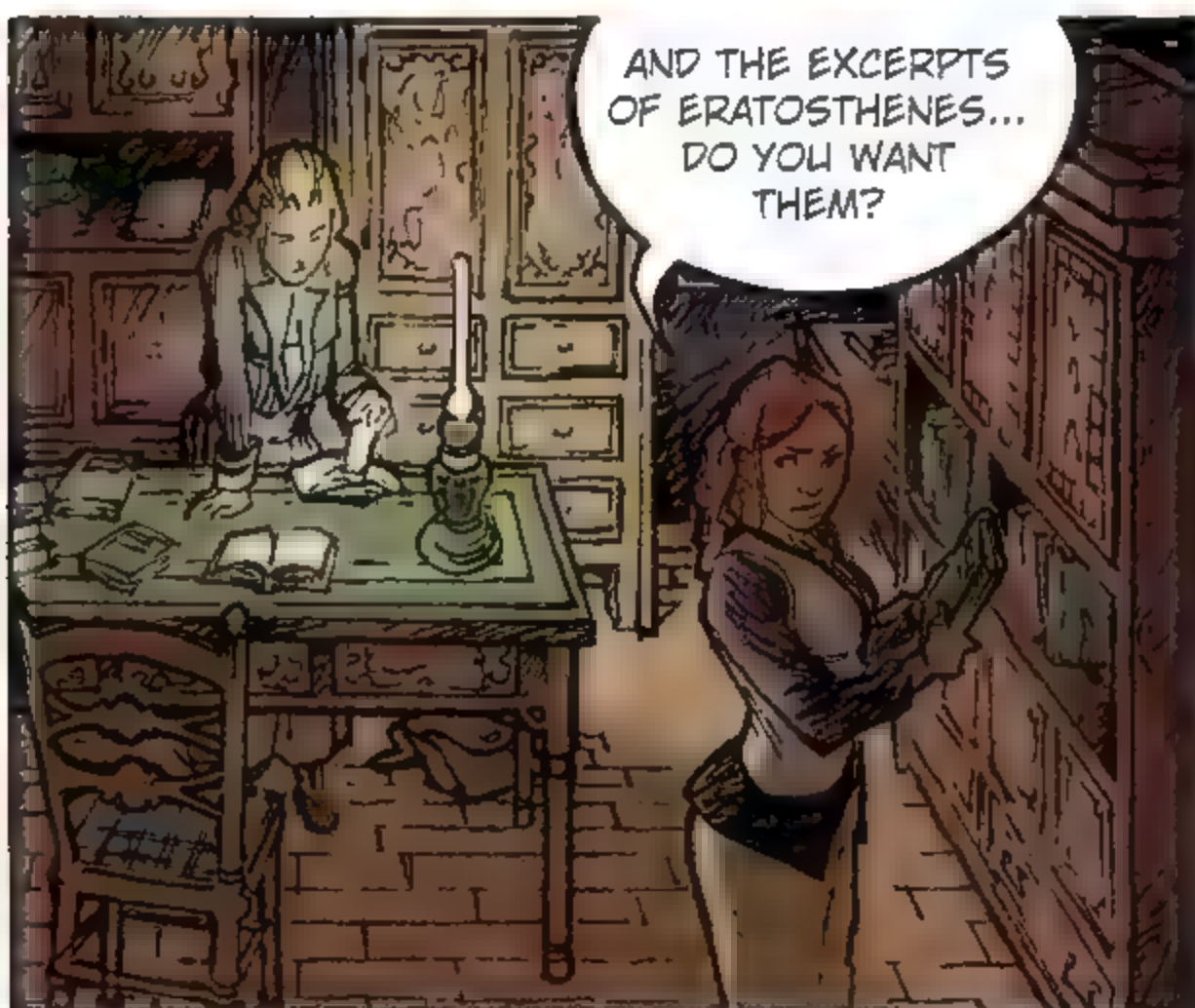
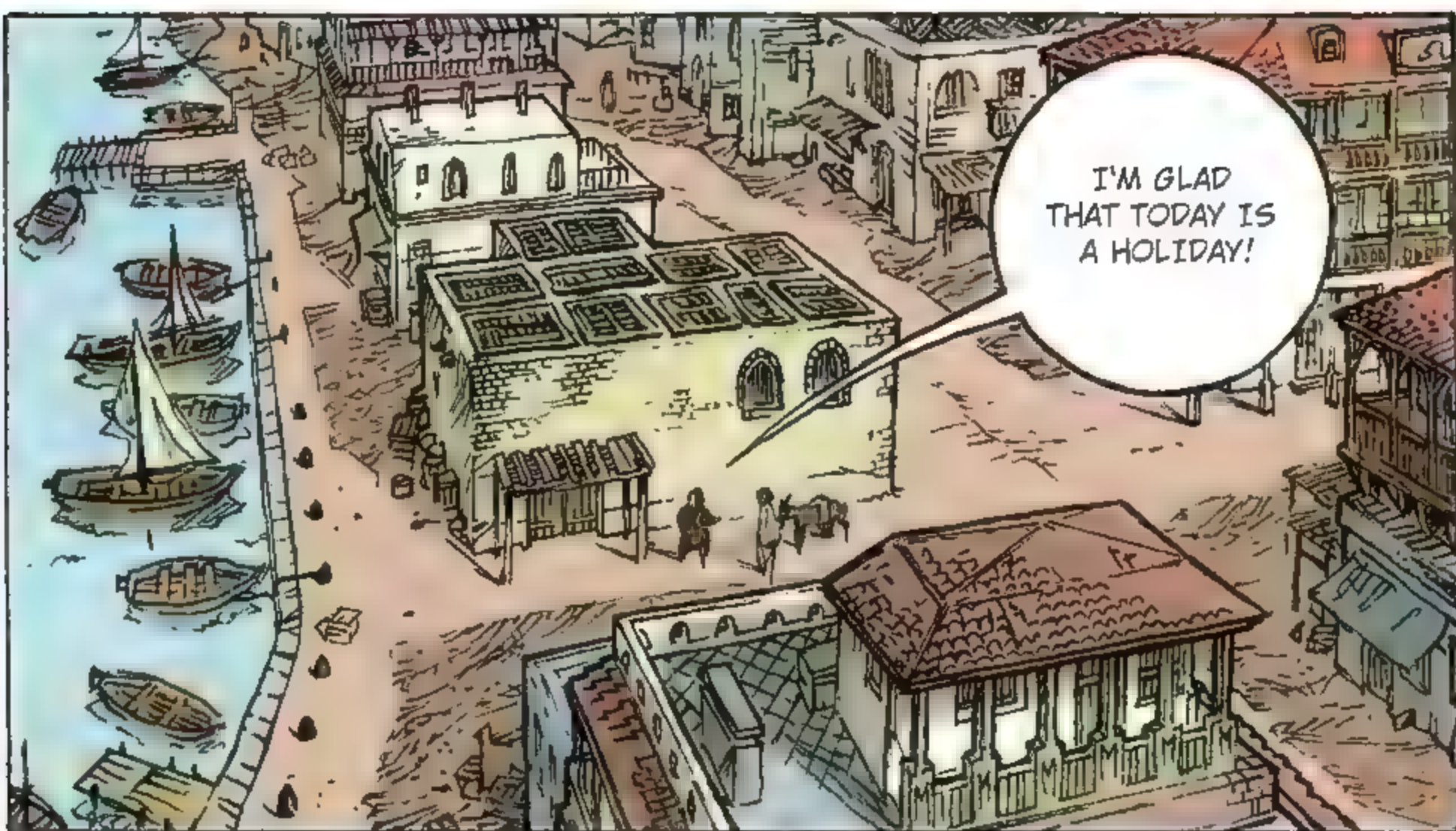
...AND NOW, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN,
WHAT DO YOU
INTEND TO DO WITH
LORD ARSHER?



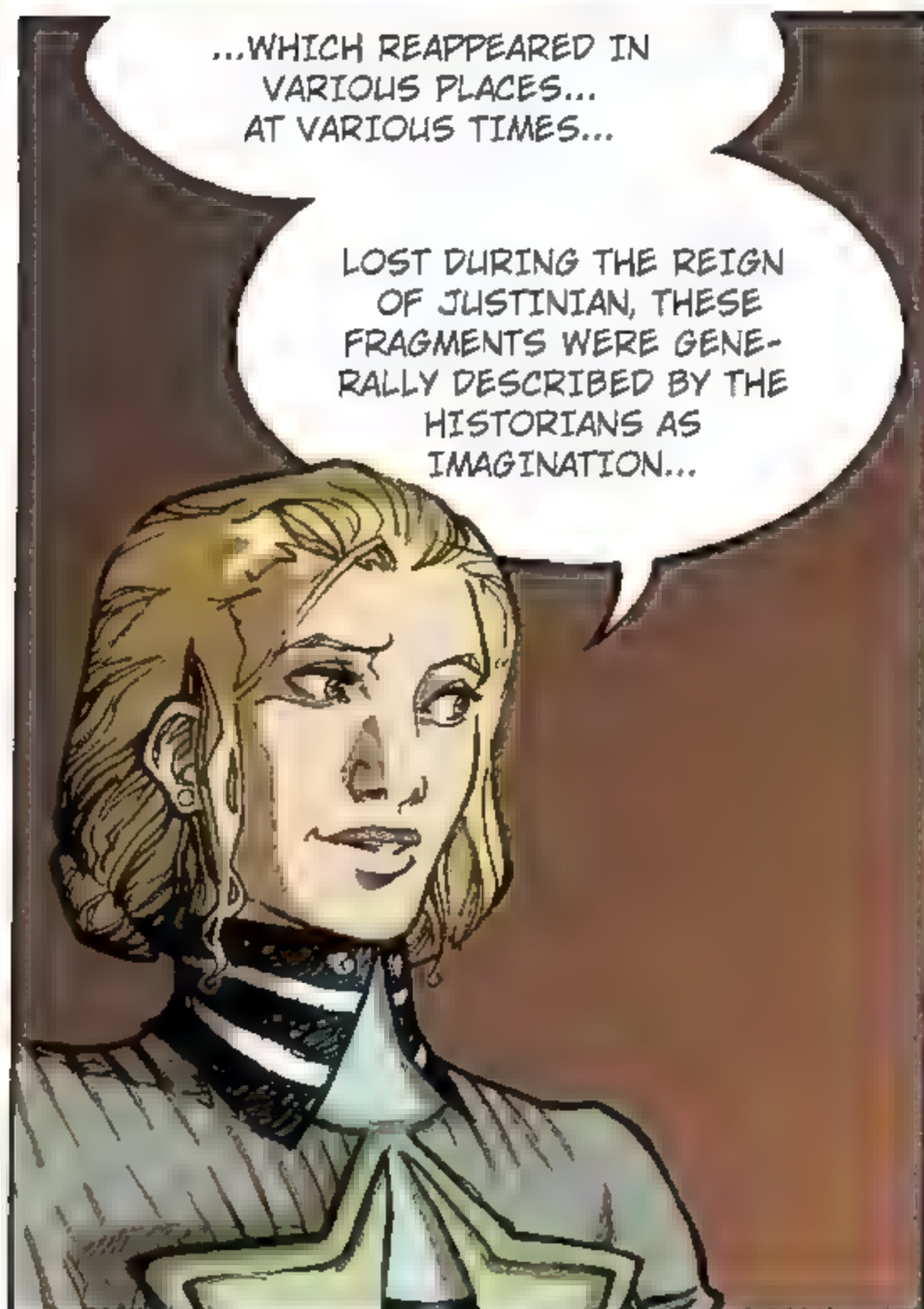
...YOU CAN'T TAKE THE
RISK THAT THE AUTHORITIES
DISCOVER HIM. THIS MAN IS
A DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE BRITISH
COMMUNITY, WHICH, ALBEIT
SMALL, IS GOING TO BE
DISTURBED AND CARRY OUT
AN INVESTIGATION.

















ALEXANDER'S TOMB



Alexandria, June 1858: Grave robbers are engaged in a fierce battle to capture the treasures of the ancient catacombs. Among them, seven French nationals discover the ruins of an underground chapel devoted to Alexander the Great... the conqueror's tomb can't be far away...

Brought together by the promise of wealth, seven adventurers seek the only manuscript that can guide them to the tomb through an underground maze filled with water. But they are not the only ones looking. Intrigues, conspiracies, betrayals and murders will play out in this unusual treasure hunt...

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